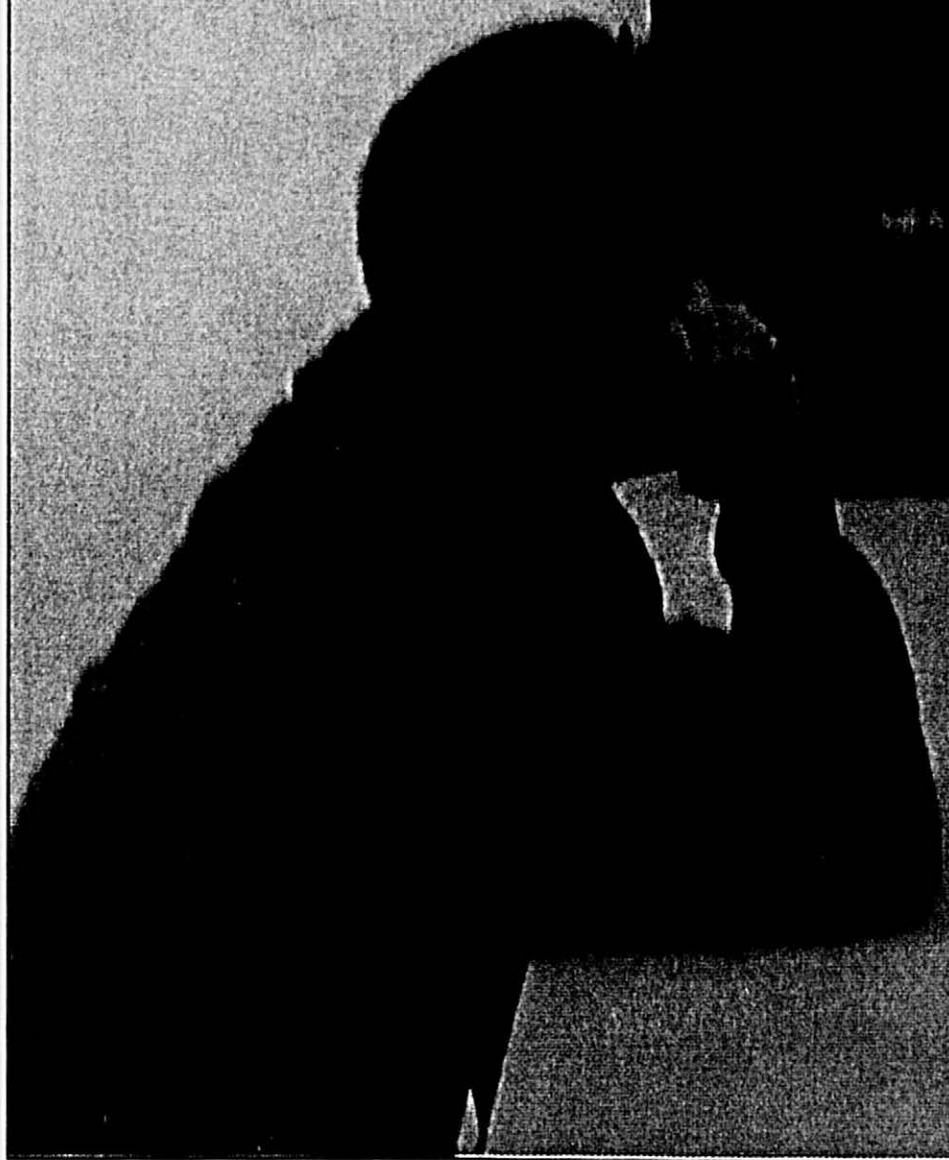


THE MCGILL DAILY

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Chapters Debts Threaten McGill Bookstore Again: Say Profs

But bookstore management says impact on students is minimal

BY JON BRICKER
The McGill Daily

Students competing with bookstore bedlam this week will have to contend with more than just crowds, The Daily has learned. That's because strained relationships between Chapters Inc. and several of its distributors are once again stopping some books from reaching bookstore shelves.

Several students and professors learned this week that a number of distributors are refusing to ship a handful of winter semester texts to the bookstore because, they say, Chapters owes them money.

Chapters Campus Bookstores, an arm of the Canadian book retailing giant Chapters Inc., has managed McGill's bookstore since 1997. This week's news at McGill comes as Chapters Inc. is making national news trying to fend off a hostile takeover by merger mogul Gerry Schwartz and his wife, Indigo Books CEO Heather Reisman.

Meanwhile, here at McGill, Senate bookstore committee chair Kerry McSweeney confirmed last week that some titles are not yet available to students because of Chapters' financial problems.

"There have been some credit-hold problems in connections with some second term courses," Senate bookstore committee

chair Kerry McSweeney told The Daily on Thursday. "This credit-hold situation has definitely had a negative impact on stocks for the winter semester."

McSweeney also said, however, McGill administrators are "monitoring the situation closely" and that bookstore management has made sure that credit problems are "rapidly being dealt with."

But late last week it was obvious that some of Chapters' outstanding debts have still not been settled. Political science professor Alan Patten learned that lesson when bookstore management told him they would be unable to get ahold of a text for his Foundations of Contemporary Political Theory course.

"The suggestion was that it was due to financial difficulties," said Patten. Hackett Publishing, the distributor for the text, later confirmed that it was not filling orders to McGill's bookstore because of outstanding debts.

"My experience with the McGill bookstore has been generally positive," said Patten, "but I'd hope that either Chapters would sort out its problems or that there would be some sort of change in management of the McGill bookstore."

The bookstore's Acting Manager, Mario Fortino, would not confirm which publishers had put the bookstore on cred-

it-hold, but he said that he is confident that the overwhelming majority of course texts have arrived at the bookstore and that outstanding debts are being settled as the bookstore becomes aware of them.

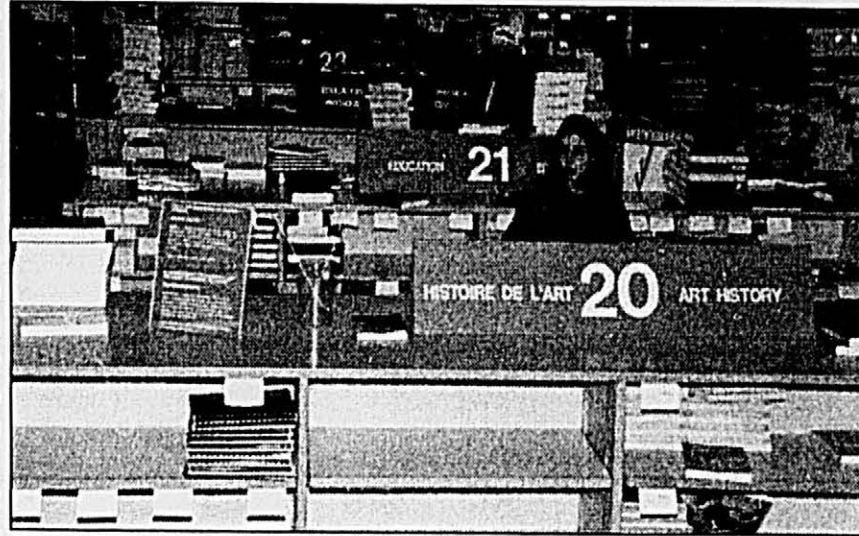
"There are probably less than a handful of publishers that we're negotiating with [and] these problems are being dealt with as quickly as we hear about them," he said.

Fortino also said that most of the books that haven't arrived are late for reasons beyond the bookstore management's control. He blamed late requisitions from professors and a number of books that are out of print.

"There are so many [other reasons], you wouldn't believe it," said Fortino. "But we're working through any problems that are presented to us."

He admitted, however, that for professors, wondering whether texts will be available at the start of the semester can be the source of "a little bit of anxiety."

That may be why many professors like Patten have begun to order their books to a number of other stores across the city.



Bartek Komorowski

Students hopeful that their books are in at the bookstore last week

McSweeney said that while he had no numbers to indicate whether more books are being ordered to other stores, he wouldn't be surprised to learn that that was the case.

"If that is a trend, I think we all know why," he said.

McSweeney said that he is concerned that the McGill bookstore is particularly vulnerable because there is a real need to get books on time for the start of each semester. "It was clear in this case that some publishers were using McGill's predicament to earn leverage with Chapters Inc."

He compared McGill's relationship with Chapters to the one between Canada and its hegemonic southern neighbour, as once described by former Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau. "It's a lot like being in bed with an elephant," said McSweeney.

Those were the same concerns addressed last semester when it was first learned that a number of publishers had decided to stop shipping to McGill's bookstore for a while last summer. In the end, bookstore management smoothed things over in time for the fall

semester and even boasted a particularly high in-stock rate.

This time around, however, the campus bookstore's credit problems are being revealed as Chapters Inc. is striving to convince its shareholders that it has a viable future and that there is no reason to sell their shares to Trilogy Retail Enterprises LP, the upstart company headed by Schwartz and Reisman.

Late last week, Trilogy extended until Jan. 24 its offer of \$13 per share to Chapters shareholders. Schwartz also wrote to Chapters shareholders claiming that Chapters' current senior management has mismanaged the company and that Chapters executives may also be guilty of "improper disclosure and insider dealing." Chapters Inc. denied those claims.

Meanwhile, back at McGill, many will continue to pay close attention to what's going on both on Bay Street and McTavish Street, to find out what will be the future of Chapters Inc. and its place at McGill.

"I'm sure that this will all be discussed at the next Senate meeting," said McSweeney.

Environment Policy Workgroup Looking for Input

BY ROBERTO ROCHA
The McGill Daily

Students and faculty are being asked to give their two cents to a long awaited environmental policy that may make McGill an eco-friendly campus as early as this spring.

The Environment Policy Workgroup, following on the heels of its presentation of a draft policy last month, is now looking for input from across campus. It is hoped that students and faculty will take time in the coming weeks to give their input on the draft which is available on McGill's website.

While McGill currently generates about six tons of garbage a day, the policy aims to cut that number in half.

And according to the EPW's Normand Lague, the input has already begun to pour in. "We have so far received about fifteen e-mails, and we are expecting comments from deans and from QPIRG as well," he said.

He said the EPW will also take the coming weeks to look at environmental policies held by businesses and other universities for ideas on how to make a McGill policy successful.

Since its formation in February 2000, the EPW has met several times to formulate the draft policy that would finally make McGill more eco-friendly. Finally, last month, the Workgroup presented a policy proposal which, if adopted, would affect virtually every part of university life. Proposals covered everything from recycling to energy use, to purchasing policies, to the ethical costs of investments and research. The proposal even called for McGill to amend its mission statement to include a "commitment to the restoration and preservation of the environment."

The need for such an all encompassing policy is not hard to see, according to QPIRG's Becky Lipton. She points to the marked scarcity of recycling bins around campus and the absence of any clear energy-saving procedures. She also refers to informal commitments that McGill made when it signed the Talloires Declaration in 1990 and the Halifax Declaration in 1991. The two documents call for universities to be models of environmental responsibility, and to minimize negative environmental impacts of goings-on at universities.

She also said that although previous efforts have been made to make McGill

green, these projects have been only nominally successful. The problem with these past efforts, she said, was that none of them included strong institutional framework.

"The same projects by [QPIRG working group] Greening McGill have been happening in past years: more recycling, [waste reduction in] residences, [reduction of] Styrofoam in cafeterias. The projects were successful because people cared a lot and were good at what they did. But two years later someone would have to start from scratch again because there was no policy from which people could work," said Lipton.

But with a new, university-wide policy, she said, "an infrastructure will exist every year to avoid restarting each time."

The deadline for submissions to the EPW is Jan. 15, after which the EPW will begin work on a final policy to present to Senate's Committee on Physical Development next month. If the committee passes the policy proposal, it will then go to Senate for ratification. Workgroup members said last week that they hope to have a new policy in place by April.

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Student Loans Handed Over to Private Companies

news-briefs



BY DARREN STEWART

Ottawa Bureau Chief, CUP

The federal government handed over service contracts for Canada's student loans to two private companies last week, ending months of confusion over the fate of the program.

The government announced today that Edulinx Canada and BDP would act as administrators for the Canada Student Loans Program.

Thomas Townsend, director of the student loans program at Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC), said he is confident these two companies will provide the best available service to students at the lowest cost to Canadian taxpayers.

"That's the entire intent," he said. "More importantly, we're going to measure that service."

Townsend said the new agreement will allow his department to monitor the loan service and hold the companies accountable to their commitments. He said he's confident this will continually improve the way in which loans are administered and provides incentive to the providers to maintain a quality of service.

Kieran Green, spokesperson for the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA) said his group welcomes the new deal though they remain wary, given private companies' poor performance record in administering student loans.

"They have a lot to prove," he said. "They say they're going to provide a higher quality of service and they're going to make the process of getting a student loan easier. We intend to hold them to these promises."

Canadian Federation of Students Chairperson Michael Conlon said he welcomes the potential for a more accountable and transparent system of loan administration, though he cautions that the real problems surrounding student loans are far from being addressed.

"At the end of the day it's really only what we see as tinkering with a really big problem."

He said he's optimistic the providers will provide a service package that will guarantee a better service for students, but his organization would continue to lobby the government to take greater steps to alleviate growing student debt.

"It's great to be able to tell students that their calls are going to be answered in 90 seconds, but that's not going to help a student pay back a \$50,000 loan."

Conlon is also worried that the new agreement will create what he calls "two tiers of service." Loans taken out between 1995 and 2000 are still subject to the risk-sharing agreement between HRDC and various banks.

"Students will likely continue to see

substandard service for loans taken out in this period," said Conlon.

Townsend said HRDC will still attempt to resolve complaints from students who took out a loan under the risk sharing system, though they encourage students to try to resolve their concerns with the financial institution that originally administered the loan.

Student loan policies such as availabil-

ity and interest rates will remain under the direct control of HRDC in the deal, though student groups expressed a concern over the private companies' level of involvement in the process—particularly Edulinx, which is 49 per cent owned by USA Education, Inc.

"We would have liked to have seen the contract go to a 100 per cent Canadian-owned company," said Green.

Conlon had further concerns, noting that Education Inc. is lobbying the US Senate, trying to further privatize the control of student loans south of the border. Representatives from both student organizations said that it's crucial to keep the private companies out of the processes of public policy.

The contract awards \$91.6 million to Edulinx to service loans to students at pub-

lic institutions and \$45.7 million to BDP for loans to students at private institutions.

The new system begins in March 2001 and expires in 2004. Both companies will be responsible for the loan disbursements, managing student loan accounts during the borrower's education, the consolidation and repayment of loans and management of debt while borrowers are in repayment.

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McGill Murder Plot Revealed in Novelist's Manuscript

Governor General's Award-winning McGill grad had plans to kill profs, administrators

BY JAIME KIRZNER-ROBERTS
The McGill Daily

A top Canadian author's autobiographical manuscript, which described a plot to murder a number of McGill professors and top administrators, was revealed recently.

McGill alumnus Nega Mezlekia, whose memoir of life as a boy soldier in Ethiopia *Notes From a Hyena's Belly* won him a Governor General's award last year, was working on his PhD in civil engineering when he became entangled in an academic dispute with his advisors who he accused of trying to take credit for his research.

In his autobiography *I Can't Recognize Myself Anymore*, Mezlekia recounts his 1994 plan to kill, "six people in the department and all higher university officials I could find," including his thesis advisors and a number of other Engineering profs.

"The inventory of hardware that I needed for the task consisted of two Colt-45 hand guns with ten-round magazines; a Heckler and Koch SP89 machine gun with a 30-shot magazine, four hand grenades, a bulletproof vest, and a half dozen pair of handcuffs," he wrote.

"No thought frustrated the imagination more than the thought that some-

one you had left for dead recovered, while you served time for your crime, or worse. That had happened to Dr. Valeri Fabrikant and I would be stupid to repeat his mistake."

Fabrikant shot and killed four colleagues at Concordia University in 1994.

Mezlekia wrote that he went down to Detroit to buy the weapons, but had a middle-of-the-night epiphany in a local hotel room, and decided to abandon his violent plans.

“The hit list consisted of six people in the [Engineering department], and all the higher university officials I could find.”

Mezlekia's publisher at Penguin Canada told The Daily that Mezlekia was refusing to be interviewed by any media source and that he had no statement on the matter. But two weeks ago, Mezlekia told the National Post that the plot detailed in his manuscript was imaginary, and not to be taken seriously.

"It was a work of fiction. I never went to

Michigan to buy a gun. I never intended to kill anybody. I don't have a gun. I never had a gun," he told The Post. The manuscript, however, presents itself as an autobiography — in the preface, Mezlekia writes that, "The reader should be reassured that all events are real."

Michael Bergman, a leading Montreal lawyer and former lecturer at the law faculty at McGill, says that it may or may not be illegal to have had unfulfilled plans to

could not comment, but did provide a written statement.

"McGill University is of course concerned by the threats which were reported in the media. However, they should be taken in context. They appear to have been made several years ago, and the manuscript, if correctly reported in the media, contains a clear statement that the author has reconsidered.

"Consequently, McGill is not at this time considering legal action against Dr. Mezlekia."

Professor Denis Mitchell, Chair of the Department of Civil Engineering and Applied Mechanics, the department which could have been the target of the killing spree, said that he would not discuss the matter with the media.

"You won't find anyone at McGill who will talk about this," he said.

Mezlekia's manuscript was released after a brewing dispute over the authorship of the acclaimed *Notes From a Hyena's Belly*. Montreal novelist Anne Stone has accused Mezlekia of passing the novel off as his own, despite the fact that she wrote the majority of the book. Mezlekia has denied the accusation, admitting that he hired Stone to copy edit the work, but that he authored the entire work.



"Wearing a hooded overcoat...I would use the Colt handgun fitted with a silencer to take out my first targets without alerting others."
—Nega Mezlekia, in his unpublished autobiographical manuscript

Quebec and McGill Complete Deal for Funding

Critics fear that performance contract gives government too much clout over university

BY SIMON RABINOVITCH
The McGill Daily

McGill signed a performance contract with the Quebec government in late December that will bring the university an extra \$100-million over the next three years, helping to boost an operating budget left battered by years of government cutbacks.

The contract means that the province will serve up cash in exchange for McGill's adoption of a number of standards. Among the highlights, McGill will increase the proportion of French and international students enrolled, hire at least 100 new professors, develop more programs in areas like information sciences, life sciences, and e-commerce. The school also has to increase the emphasis on research in its bachelor program and increase the student services for francophone students from Quebec.

McGill is the latest university in Quebec to ink such a contract with the government. The province plans on establishing similar agreements with all post-secondary schools in Quebec by the end of January.

According to education minister François Legault, the goal of the performance contracts, is to make sure that universities are developing according to a set of provincially goals.

"We want university institutions like McGill to profit from performance contracts by giving them ambitious objectives

linked to precise indicators, mainly related to the success of the students, efficient management of resources and strategic choices for development," said Legault in a recent press release.

He added that he thinks the system of financing that accompanies the performance contracts is "fair, equitable and transparent."

Some people within the McGill community worry, however, that stipulations which must be met for the funds to be handed over give the government excessive control over the university's academic direction.

Principal Bernard Shapiro said that while he is pleased that the government is finally making good on its commitment to reinvest in post-secondary education, he remains slightly skeptical of tying McGill to a written commitment.

"I would, in some sense, prefer for the university to receive the funds totally unencumbered by any accountability mechanism," said Shapiro. "I have a lot of faith in the university to produce very good social choices both for the university and the society around us."

But Shapiro believes that the government should be able to monitor how its money is spent to some degree. He said he is not concerned that the Department of Education is overstepping its bounds in the recent contract.

"I do not think it is unreasonable for

the government to demand some level of accountability from the university in terms of its own social agendas," Shapiro said.

But some critics find it harder to cast a positive light on the performance contract. They argue that the government is in the process of usurping the management of academic priorities that used to be the exclusive domain of universities. One fear is that the government may place too much emphasis on research that produces immediate, marketable results, thus promoting more investment in computer and life sciences than in the humanities and social sciences.

This fear appears to have materialized with the performance contract under which McGill is pledging to develop academic programs in disciplines such as information technology, genomics, bio-informatics and e-commerce, but virtually nothing that will benefit the Arts faculty.

Political Science professor and McGill Senator Sam Noumoff is wary of the course that may be plotted for McGill by the Quebec government's directives.

"There are better ways of controlling the interaction between the government and universities," he said.

While Noumoff does not object to the government providing some large-scale analysis that contributes to the orientation of universities, he thinks that this must be done on an arms-length basis and that contractual obligations are inappropriate.



Brian O'Keefe

Isn't it cute when Shappy talks and shares his opinions?

"Universities should be accountable to the government, but it is important in the future to establish limits on that relationship."

The annual performance contract payments from Quebec will reach their apogee in the academic year of 2002-3 when the school will receive \$49.7 million, a level of funding that the government will then maintain in subsequent years.

Shapiro said that he knows the money will go a long way, but he is not convinced that it is sufficient to maintain high standards. He plans on continuing to

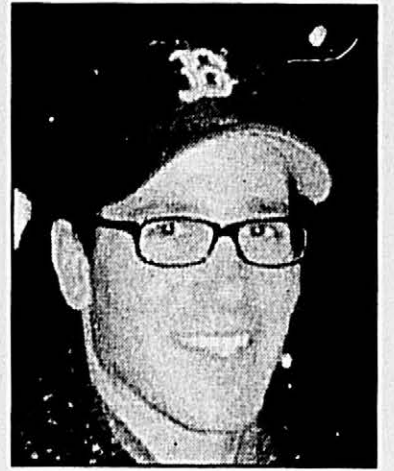
apply pressure on the government to increase funding, as well as turning to the private sector for additional support. Even if the incoming money heavily favours life sciences and information technology, Shapiro thinks that the university can strike a balance between all its different faculties through a careful allocation of funds.

"We're going to have to make a special effort to deal with the humanities and the social sciences in a way to sustain them whether they are popular with the government or not," he admitted, "but I think it's manageable."

Why are we back so early?

McGill's longer than average semesters raise students' collective dander

It wasn't a pretty picture in most classrooms on campus last Wednesday. Just two short days after New Year's, bleary students were once again sitting behind desks. To make matters worse, their peers at many other Canadian universities had vacations that lasted until today. This is because of McGill's thirteen week semesters, which are one week longer than schools such as Queen's and U of T. The dates for the semester are set by Dean of Students Rosalie Jukier, and frequently require creative calendar use. The term cannot start earlier than September 1 or end later than May 1 since many students would have to pay additional rent. There then need to be 39 Monday-Wednesday-Friday classes and 26 Tuesday-Thursday classes. Once statutory holidays and reading week are included, there's very little breathing space. This is why our year is as packed as it is, as well as why there was good half hour of debate at Senate last year about whether McGill need turn a Thursday into a Monday and risk thoroughly confusing students. It's also why former Arts Senator Jeff Feiner's suggestion that McGill introduce an October reading week was quickly dismissed by Jukier as completely unworkable. -Ben Errett



"You know, it's always been like that. We start earlier, we end later. I'm kind of used to it. At first it was a little bit of a problem, but I don't mind any more."

David Ragou
U2 Physiology



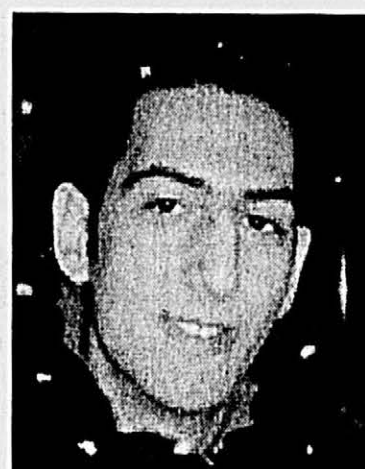
"I had two weeks. It felt pretty short. But it always feels short."

Carla
First year



"My exams ended right on the 21st, so I had less than two weeks. It was pretty annoying."

Sheila Varadan
Law, U1



"I didn't really look at it as an inconvenience. I wanted to start as soon as possible, because all my friends went home and I had nothing to do. I was ready to get back to work."

Wassim Moukabbab
U2 Management



"It sucks. First of all, we come back in the middle of the week, so you don't get to do all the classes. I don't know...three days after New Year's Eve? I mean, come on."

Elkabna Talbi
UO English



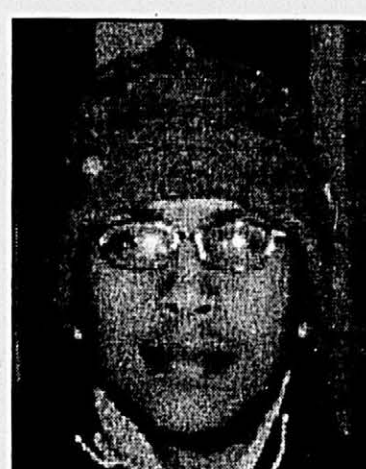
"I disliked it greatly. I'm from New York, and all my friends have at least two more weeks off. I needed another week to catch up on sleep."

Catherine Rosenblatt
U2 Psychology



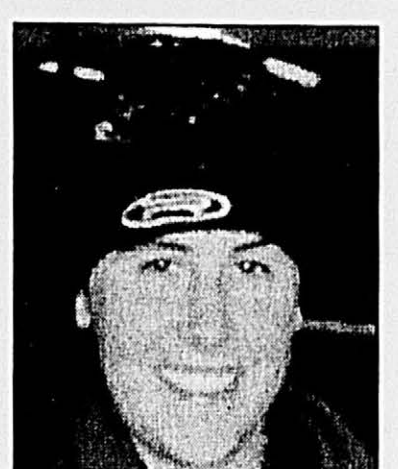
"Actually, I wasn't back at school on Wednesday, January 3. It was kind of a silent protest. I live away, and I paid like a thousand dollars to get home for Christmas. I decided it just wasn't worth my time to come back. So Friday is my first day of classes."

Claire McIntyre
U2 Arts



"I would have liked to have a little bit more time, but I guess it's because we finish earlier than other universities. No? Well, that does suck. It would have been much better if they could have given us more time. I finished my exam on the 21st, so I had like a week."

Iyassu Demissi
U3 Political Science and History



"It sucks. All my friends are still at home partying it up and stuff, and we're back here early. I had less than two weeks, and I had to fly all the way back to Alberta, so it was really short"

Laura Dimarzo
U3 Physiology



Canadian Falun Gong Member Sent to Chinese Labour Camp

Human rights advocates pushing federal government to fight for Montrealer's release

BY JON BRICKER
The McGill Daily

An art professor with roots in Montreal is believed to be the first Canadian to be arrested in China for practicing Falun Gong, a spiritual movement that was banned in the country in 1999.

News broke this week that KunLun Zhang, who was arrested in July while practicing Falun Gong in a public park, has been moved to ShanDong prison, a labour camp in ShanDong province southeast of Beijing known to many of its prisoners as "Hell on Earth."

Zhang's case began making headlines last month when Irwin Cotler, a McGill law professor, Liberal MP and world-renowned human rights lawyer, was named Zhang's international legal counsel. Zhang's case has earned particular attention at McGill where, according to his family, he was a visiting professor in the mid-1990s.

The case has put the spotlight on the Team Canada trade mission to China slated for next month. Although the federal government-led missions normally focus on promoting trade, this time human rights advocates, Canadian Falun Gong practitioners, and Zhang's family are calling on the Canadian government to step up pressure for China to release Zhang.

"This is all very scary for me right now," said Zhang's daughter, LingDi, in an interview with The Daily on Thursday.

Ms. Zhang, who attends the University of Ottawa, and her sister, who lives in Montreal, have good reason to fear for their father's life, she says. "He's been moved to a location where there are all sorts of reports of Falun Gong practitioners being tortured to death."

Ms. Zhang said her mother is also currently under surveillance by Chinese authorities who have threatened to arrest

her for leaking state secrets when she contacted her daughters.

Yumin Yang, a Montreal-based Falun Gong practitioner, has been helping to bring the federal government's attention to the plight of KunLun Zhang. He said that Zhang is one of countless Falun Gong members in China who have been the victims of undue persecution.

"The number of people being tortured is growing all the time," said Yang. "In China, [the authorities] don't want people involved in anything that's not under the control of the Communist Party. This is a case of a very, very evil force against a very, very righteous one."

But Jin Zhenda, First Secretary at the Chinese embassy in Ottawa, defended Zhang's arrest and said the Chinese government will not likely respond to pressure from the Canadian government.

"China has been firm in dealing with cultist organizations," he said. "Mr. Zhang engaged in the illegal activities of the Falun Gong cult and jeopardized the public order."

Although Zhang is a citizen of both Canada and China, Zhenda said that the Chinese government does not recognize Zhang's Canadian citizenship and that the

ment should be concerned about. Yang pointed to the plight of Jinyu Li, a Canadian woman whose husband is currently in a Chinese prison. The couple was arrested for practicing Falun Gong during a visit to China in 1999. Although Ms. Li was sent back to Canada, her husband remains in a Chinese prison. And despite efforts from Canadian human rights advocates, Ms. Li continues to be denied any sort of contact with her husband.

Yang said the cases of Zhang and Li reveal what he calls an out-and-out attack on freedom of conscience. He said that Falun Gong is not an organized religious movement like the Chinese government has suggested, but a spiritual movement like Tai Chi or Yoga with central virtues including truthfulness, compassion, and tolerance. And although Falun Gong's leaders have never expressed a political agenda, in 1999, the Chinese government began targeting the group which is thought to have a membership larger than the Communist Party.

But according to Zhenda, Falun Gong is a doomsday sect and poses a real threat to the Chinese order. He said that Falun



Imprisoned Falun Gong member and Canadian KunLun Zhang

“The number of people being tortured [in China] is growing all the time.”

Canadian government therefore has no consular right to intervene in Zhang's case.

"Chinese authorities have the right to bring him to justice and no other country has the right to interfere," Zhenda said.

But Yang said that Zhang's case isn't the only one that the Canadian govern-

Gong's leaders have gone to great lengths to mislead the Chinese people and the international community.

"It's a cult," he said. "A lot of practitioners are out of their mind." Pointing to Falun Gong's reports of mass executions and membership ranks of 100-million, Zhenda added, "They are responsible for a

lot of propaganda and rumours."

He also denied reports that Falun Gong members are being persecuted to the extent that they claim, saying members have been subjected to "no torture, no persecution at all."

"The Chinese government is a responsible government," Zhenda said.

But Ms. Zhang said that she hopes the Canadian government takes a stand and defends her father during next month's Team Canada mission.

"They should take a strong stance on these human rights violations, even more now that it's their own citizens being persecuted," she said. "Especially when they go on their trade mission, they should make this a priority on their agenda."

And according to Department of

Foreign Affairs and International Trade spokesperson Reynald Doiron, the federal government plans to do just that.

He said that the government has already asked the Chinese government for Zhang's release and that further pressure might be most effective if it is linked with the trade agenda.

"China wants very badly to become a part of APEC and the WTO. I hope that they see what kind of impact that this has on the minds of their trade partners," he said.

In the meantime, the campaign for Zhang's release will continue right here at McGill where the campus chapter of Amnesty International will play host to Yang and another speaker on Tuesday at 6:30 pm in Leacock 424.

THE MCGILL DAILY

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3480 McTavish St., Rm. B-03,
Montreal QC, H3A 1X9
phone: 514.398.6784, fax: 514.398.8318
www.mcgilldaily.com
editors@mcgilldaily.com

business & advertising office:

3480 McTavish St., Rm. B-07, Montreal
QC, H3A 1X9
phone: 514.398.6790, fax: 514.398.8318
ads@mcgilldaily.com

co-ordinating editor:
BEN ERRETT**co-ordinating news editor:**
JAMIE KIRZNER-ROBERTS**news editors:**

JON BRUCKER, SIMON RABINOWITZ

co-ordinating culture editor:
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cover design:

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défil français:

PHILIPPINE DE T'SERCLAES

business manager:

MARIA SCHRIER

assistant business manager:

PIERRE BOUTILON

advertising management:

SASHA DECHENE, BORIS SHELWIK

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CAMERON CAMPBELL

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The Sheer Ridiculousness of Being Here Now

comment



BY J. KELLY NESTRUCK

Time is on my side. It's a song you may be familiar with, but, unfortunately for the students at our fine university, it is not a slogan that you will hear bandied about in the hallowed halls of the Leacock building or the squash courts in Currie gym.

Thanks to the haphazard pursuits of a few bored Gregorian monks some millenia ago, the days in the year 2000 fell in a pattern that produced much chagrin for the McGill community. Short-sighted

administrators, ostensibly not wanting to waste a precious second of our time, scheduled a return to classes on January 3, days before most of us recovered from the joviality of singing Auld Lang Syne in our hometowns spread out across the country, continent and world. Indeed, while this prompt, punctual return to the books may seem to be an efficient thing to do, it in fact wastes our time and money.

Firstly, a large proportion of McGill's students live beyond Laval, making it financially worthwhile to go home for the holidays only if they stay past the start of school. With half the classes missing, students who do show up on the first day of school feel cheated and professors yawn their way through the first couple of lectures. Even Concordia, with its largely local pupil population had the sense to start a day later than McGill. Heck, many of the administrators aren't coming back until today — Did you enjoy your vacation, Dean Jukier?

The problem here is not with saving time; it's recognizing that efficiency doesn't necessarily lead to quality, in life or in academia. The bureaucrats who wind the clocks expect students to be refreshed after less than two weeks of R&R, and would probably like English professors to be sponsored by BioChem Pharma.

Not that we should expect anyone at McGill to be on top of time management. When was the last time you received a paper back quickly? What about those Shatner renovations that were supposed to be started months ago? Have you ever gone into the underground snail tunnels and laughed at the signs showing their future extensions, circa 1970? We sure can't wait for the day when we can walk from Rutherford Physics to Place Ville Marie in subterranean bliss. And what about the so-called McGill Daily?

Then there are the laughable timetables. If the administrators ever tried to get to a class on time in Macdonald

Engineering, after having one in the Stewart Biology Building, they would realise how absurd the five minutes grace period is in real life. One has to leave class a few minutes early, thus annoying the professor and fellow students. Until transmogifiers are issued to each and every student, we're going to need some more time.

Yes, time is fleeting. And as every second rushes by in a flurry of snow and wind, as we shiver dreaming of snail tunnels and transmogrifiers, our time here at McGill grows shorter and shorter. Our new year's resolution is one that we would like to propose to the rest of the McGill community. It's to make the most of the time we have left, whether in our degree or on this planet. Sometimes we get too caught up in the whirlwind and forget why we're here. Stop and smell the roses, or at least the coffee on your way to class. Take a moment for yourself and others. Take the time to relax and enjoy yourself, for it is all very brief and transient. Blink and it's gone.



"She's inside and she hates me.

Why don't you just take care of me! She wants to know.

She's begging, why don't I take care of her, why don't I protect her.

Over and over again, she screams, it happens over and over again."

-Nicky Splinter (from *Sever*)

Amidst the nation-wide white ribbon campaign, and at a time of the year when those of us in Montreal are particularly haunted by the knowledge of an ongoing battle against violence that targets females, I thought I might draw on some personal experience to broaden this spectrum, not only to bring attention to a certain activity that is on the rise and deserves concern, but to hopefully achieve a better understanding of this sick phenomenon as a whole. Without further adieu, my screwed up case history:

Last February, I got a call from a former boyfriend who was at school in the states. When he confessed to me that he had gotten drunk at a party the night before, and cheated on me, I accepted his apology, told him that I understood, and assured him that everything was, and would be, okay. However, shortly after hanging up the phone, I picked up a pair of scissors and slashed my left arm up leaving about ten scars.

Incidences like this one are hardly ever isolated. In my case, I had substituted cut-

ting myself for bulimia the year before, when throwing up had become excruciating and the septic pipes in my house were about to back up again.

My main instruments of self-abuse were knives, scissors, and broken glass. In trying to assess the extent to which this activity occurred, I can cite my journal entries from nearly two years ago in which I confess to have cut my arm a total of 87 times one night, and then 75 on another. I also have scars on my thighs and stomach that I joke about sometimes, referring to them as botched attempts at self liposuction, but nobody ever really finds that funny, except for me.

I never quite felt alone with this particular problem. At the time I started, I knew of three other people I went to high school with, friends, who had cut themselves as well. All of them were female.

Self-injury, or self-inflicted violence, as it is sometimes called (I have serious issues with whoever thought up the term 'self-mutilation'), affects a shockingly higher number of women than it does men, one example of this gender split being a survey reporting 85 per cent of sufferers to be women. Research of this nature is often accompanied by claims that women are socialized to internalize anger while men are taught to externalize it.

I'll buy that. But there's more I think. In a gross oversimplification, for me, self-injury was about power, control, body hatred, self-definition by negative means, and a means of expressing a pain that I couldn't (or possibly felt that I

shouldn't) describe in words. Moreover, I hated uncertainty, so in order to make the abstract concrete, I fell into a cycle of converting the distress I felt inside into a physical reality. But most disturbing, I think, was my desire for victimization under the mistaken impression that pity and love were synonymous. Essentially, I self-injured for many of the same reasons I became anorexic at 15, and then bulimic a year later. Looking back, it's all the same to me. Oh yeah, and I won't deny that non-existent self-esteem thing, either.

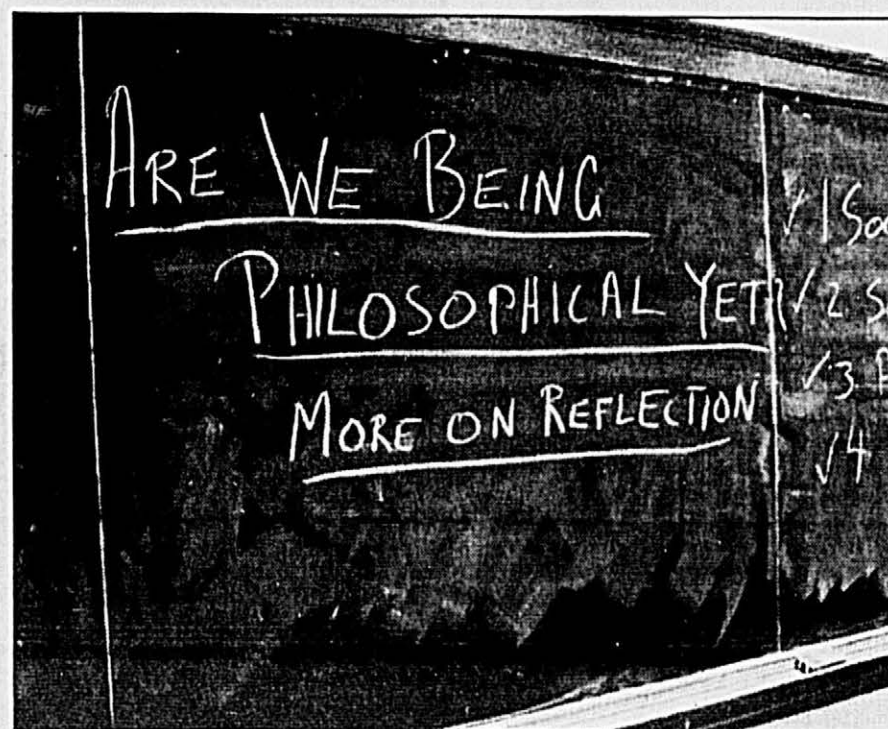
Such factors, especially those of power, control, low self-esteem in teenage girls, and the strange appeal of victimization, may be easily appropriated into a feminist discourse condemning a society that limits a female's grasp at power and control, and then rewards her when she seeks them negatively through a certain quintessential victim status. All adding up to the key role of society in a woman's self-inflicted violence.

When we commemorated the victims of the Montreal Massacre last month, I was thinking of ways to address the issue of violence against women, which in turn led me to think of my own life and the self-victimization, the insipid fascination with pain and the transcendence of it, which had dominated much of my growing years. Truthfully, I never thought of self-injury as a manifestation of violence against women. But now that I have equated the two, I see the connection to be rather pivotal.

Collectively, it shows that this tragic violence is not solely the evidence of abusive tyranny of one gender over another, but of the extent of the importance of violence in the ways we deal with our lives. When we feel hopeless, pain becomes the major touchstone against which we measure happiness. Sometimes it replaces pleasure.

A self-injurer recovers when something suddenly clicks, and the ability to endure pain becomes a strength and feeds the desire not to be a victim anymore.

CAMPUS EYE by Franklin Sackville



Blackboard spotted in the Arts building greets bleary eyed students searching for meaning in their lives

letters



ATTACK ON MICHAUD WAS CLEARLY POLITICALLY MOTIVATED

This is a response to the whole Michaud debacle unfolding before us. I think people should bear in mind what we're actually dealing with, not what legacy-minded Premier Bouchard or the liberal media have fed us. Mr. Michaud did not say anything against Jewish people or in any way demean their rights as individuals. Somehow Mr. Michaud's criticisms of Jewish over-politicization of the Holocaust and B'nai Brith as an extremist organization got confused with anti-semitism in the politically correct witch hunt. Is someone anti-Black somehow if they believe the Nation of Islam or the Black Panthers are extremist organizations? I think not. One is not anti-Jewish simply because one condemns a group that happens to be Jewish which also associates with groups which have been involved in violence. (B'nai Brith received flack from Canadian Human Rights groups for associating with Anti-Racist Action, a group in 1997 that was linked by CSIS for firebombing the Toronto home of one of their opponents) Attacking people and attacking a political agenda should be clearly demarcated.

Moreover, it should be seen that Mr. Michaud did implicitly recognize the historic struggle of the Jewish people in restoring their homeland through his comments and never "trivialized" the Holocaust in his comments. I think what is really going on is quite apparent. Mr. Bouchard is trying to purge the PQ from its "money and ethnic votes" legacy in order to achieve the winning conditions he so desires and Mr. Michaud is an ideal scapegoat. Mr. Michaud did nothing wrong expect perhaps threaten Bouchard's dream.

Joseph Quesnel
U3 Political Science & History

POOR STUDENTS NEED NOT APPLY

It has become very clear to me lately that I am not worthy of a McGill education. I am not worthy not because I failed to meet the rigorous academic standards that have defined this institution for so

many years. In the two and a half years that I have been here I have been able to meet those standards time and time again. I am not worthy because I am poor, and worse than that I have no immediate future prospects or 'strategy' to relieve myself of this dreaded condition. The government of Ontario has decided that, "yes you are poor, but no you are not poor enough." So for the last month I have been running around playing the 'poor game', with the Ontario Student Assistance Program, McGill Student Assistance, and my benevolent bank. I've tried to make it quite clear to them that I needed their help. I said "look, I have no money." And they said, "look, we just can't help you." The problem is not McGill, or OSAP or the bank, they are just doing their job, which is to tell me not what I can have, but what I cannot have. They did their job very well indeed, and on several occasions. The problem is not them, it is me. You see, I thought I could actually attend this school and be poor at the same time. What a ridiculously idiotic idea. How completely stupid of me.

Sam Campbell
U2 History

WHO'S GRUBBING WHO?

De Maisonneuve-Ramli described Great Britain's colonialists as "land-grubbing" (Dec. 4, 2000). I suppose, though, that the writer's "well established" ancestors and their fellow French colonialists could feel better about themselves than the British, due to the fact that of course, the First Nations people gladly handed their land over to the first French settlers who reached the new world.

K.M. Ludrik
U0 Music

MARC LEPINE DOESN'T REPRESENT MEN

It haunts me to believe that on December 6, 1989, Marc Lepine walked into a classroom and opened fire. It disgusts me to know that there are sick, disturbed people out there who thrive on intolerance and hate. December 6 should always be a reminder to us all, especially those who need reminding, that the fight for true liberty and equality is still going on.

However, I find some statements in Cristina Campisi's article to be quite offensive and, to be blunt, untrue. Professor Peta Tancred's assertion that "Built into the male psyche is an element of socialization which says that women are an acceptable

target of violent acts," discourages me. As a man who was raised by two strong women, along with two independent female siblings, I have never viewed women as a legitimate target for my aggression. In fact, I have no general opinion of women as a group at all, but rather view each individual, whether male or female, separately.

Some women in my life have been victims of the presumption that some men hold that they have a right to dominate. However, these men are themselves sick, and I do not feel they represent my "sex" or me on any level. Lepine was truly a disturbed and psychotic individual who bought into the patriarchal ideology which is predominant in society. But he, too, could never be representative of me simply because we were both born with things between our legs. While socialization is, of course, always a major factor, it is not the end all of all conditions.

I fear that the implication that no men today can sympathize with feminism and work towards equality in society will severely impede any progress. I accept that I can never fully comprehend the oppression felt by women, but this does not entail that I cannot do my part to help all people gain recognition of their position.

Geoff Makad
U1 Political Science

MIDDLE EAST FEATURE COMMENDABLE

Thank you for proving to me that McGill University is in fact a place of higher education. I begin to doubt this fact whenever I look through many of McGill's publications. For example, in engineering they have this ridiculous newsletter "The Faucet" which is an embarrassment for anyone to be seen with. The McGill Daily, however, gives me faith in the intellect of McGill students. I am referring in particular to the great article by Aaron Mate (Nov. 27). This is the only article about the conflict in the Middle East I consider to be worthwhile reading. Not one of the many articles I have read in any newspaper in Montreal has displayed such in depth understanding to this crisis. Not one of them have backed up their opinions with facts, figures and quotes. In fact, the great article by Aaron Mate is a pool of information, it is a great summary about this 52 year-old conflict. And what I admire most about it is that it is directed to the average Canadian who doesn't know much about that region of the world.

From this day onward, I am looking forward to read The McGill Daily and am awaiting coverage about the Middle East and the rest of the world from you.

Ziad Nabhani
U2 Mechanical Engineering

IAN AT CKONE RANDOMLY SENT THIS TO OUR EMAIL ACCOUNT. WE DO NOT UNDERSTAND IT.

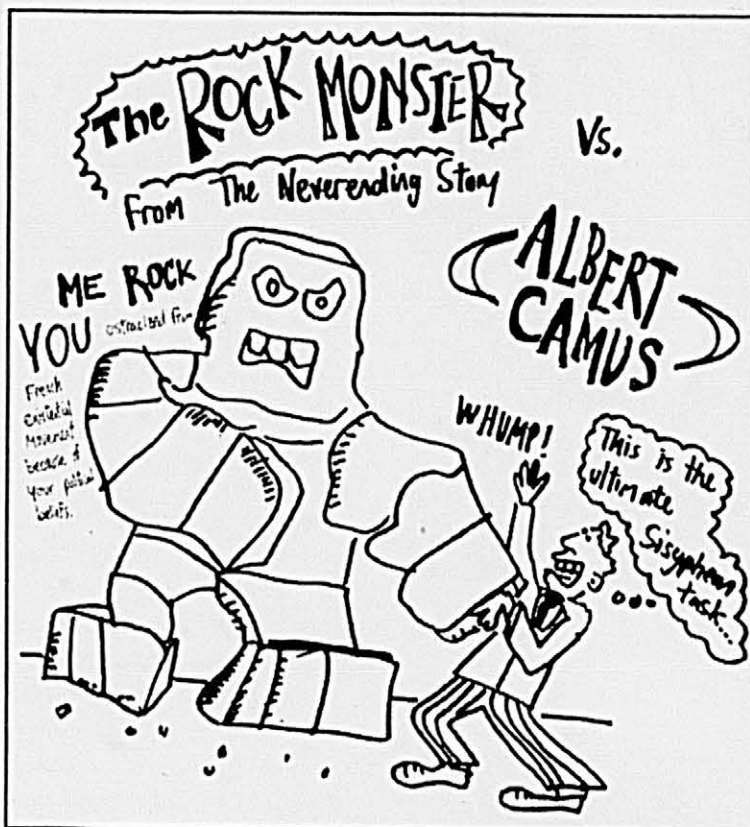
Erika is here! She's practically the star of the freaking movie. The first night, right when I was getting to know everybody she came out of nowhere and snacked me across the face, and then ran out crying. She has red hair now, I didn't really recognize her. I said, like I didn't know anything about it (stupid lie), who is that, and the key grip said, "that's only the female lead of the movie." I figured she was mad at me for leaving without saying good-bye. When I finally found her at her hotel, I apologized, but halfway through I thought, what am I apologizing for? and then she started laughing, and laughed so hard she rolled off the bed and onto the floor, and her dress flipped up to show her slip, and when she finally caught her breath she was on the floor looking up at me, and she said, "Ian you sweet, sweet boy, I ruined your life, and you apologize to me..." She said I "shouldn't let women have so much power" over me, and then she pulled me down to the floor with her, and started laughing again. I just went with the flow.

later
Ian

Your letters and Hyde Parks are always welcome on the Commentary Pages. Send them to us at letters@mcgilldaily.com

TITANS OF LITERATURE VS. FAMOUS MOVIE MONSTERS

by Steve Barker



Write for

THE MCGILL DAILY

News Meetings:

MONDAYS 4:00

Culture Meetings:

TUESDAYS 4:00 PM

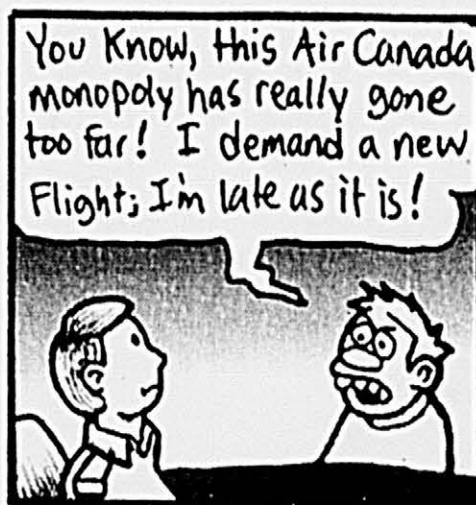
Mind&Body Meetings:

TUESDAYS 4:30 PM

EVERYONE WELCOME!
MEETINGS WILL NOW BE HELD IN
THE SHATNER CAFETERIA

AIN'T LIFE ODD by Mike Winters

comics@mcgilldaily.com



Arms and the Man

Is Dubya poised to trigger a new global arms race?

BY PAUL REEVE
The McGill Daily

When George W. Bush is sworn in as U.S. President on January 20th, some professional worrywarts say, the world may enter a new era of nuclear expansion. It's an era into which Canada may be dragged along, if it refuses to walk.

Bush plans a large national missile defense (NMD), a considerably expanded version of a plan descended from Ronald Reagan's Star Wars initiative, and begun by the Clinton Democrats. It is opposed by much of the rest of the world, particularly Russia and China.

Threatening the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty between the US and Russia, a Cold War cornerstone, and the effectiveness of a deteriorating Russian nuclear arsenal, the NMD could upset a balance of nuclear threats that keeps proliferation in check, critics say.

Furthermore, they charge, the NMD would be vastly expensive, and its aims are technologically unfeasible. Still, some version of the plan has received support from both major parties in the US.

Perhaps more worrying is the fact that the Canadian government has thus far failed to come out with a strong position either way.

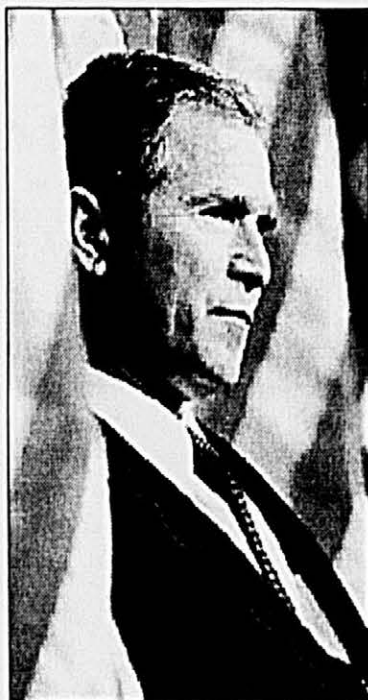
DETERRENCE: A THING OF THE PAST?

In the late 1960s the geniuses of Cold War strategy were imagining world peace. By having so many bombs trained on each other, the superpowers ensured that the faintest signs of nuclear provocation would result in Mutually Assured Destruction - an egalitarian Holocaust.

But a strange question loomed: what if either side believed that it might actually be able to defend itself from the other's attacks? Realizing how catastrophically this idea could expand the already almost comically bloated arms race, the two sides negotiated a solution, of sorts. The Anti-Ballistic Missile treaty was signed in 1972. It ensured that neither side would be allowed to construct a nation-wide missile defense system to stop the other's Inter-Continental Ballistic Missiles. So stood a balance as delicate as 80,000 warheads could be.

In the post-Cold War period, many ICBMs on both sides are still trained on cities across the planet, ready to be launched within minutes of a command.

What's more, the US and Russia are no longer the only nuclear states. A notable new player is China, which has 20 or so ICBMs carrying nuclear warheads. And, apart from terrorist groups and potentially hostile China, the US is concerned with smaller countries bearing grudges - so-called "rogue states." Among these is North



George W. Bush



Lloyd Axworthy



Kim Jong Il

Korea, which, some say, may soon develop ICBM technology and could threaten the continental US with nuclear missile strikes.

Still, many said, deterrence, which has stood as the main defense against Russia's massive nuclear arsenal, should easily be enough to stop small players like North Korea or Iran from attacking the United States. "I mean, is North Korea susceptible to the rational view that, if you strike us with a missile, we will make North Korea a giant crater in the ground?" asked US Senator Joseph Biden. The answer given by some proponents of the plan was no.

US assessments of these potential threats have varied. A 1995 US National Intelligence Council report concluded that these threats were minimal. On the other hand, 1998's Rumsfeld commission, a US group headed by a strong proponent of NMD, concluded that North Korea and Iran could have ICBM capabilities within five years, and Iraq within ten.

"This was the report that lit the fire," said Luke Warren, media director and analyst for the Council for a Livable World, in Washington, D.C.

In the month after this report, North Korea launched a satellite using what US intelligence saw as an unexpectedly sophisticated missile system, known as Taepo Dong. "Iran also tested an unanticipatedly advanced system just three weeks after the release of the report," Warren explained.

These apparently worrisome developments provided a political charge for the plan. By 2000, the major US parties were jockeying to position themselves as more defence-minded. Bill Clinton, pressured in the strange military politics of the US to keep from leaving Al Gore's Democrats looking overly "soft" for a presidential campaign, was to decide definitively on the implementation of the relatively limited system planned by the Democrats sometime early in the year. But after a failed test of the system in July - a test which Time magazine said was "all but rigged" to succeed, and which was the second test out of three failed by the fledgling technology - Clinton left the decision to his successor.

Meanwhile, in 2000, a decades-long freeze in relations between the Koreas began to thaw. Kim Jong Il, the enigmatic North Korean leader, was engaged in a series of attempts to end North Korea's political isolation. He was looking less and less like the irrational militarist who would fire missiles at the US despite the immense danger into which that would throw his country.

A NEW ARMS RACE?

The professed aim of the NMD is to protect the continental US - and adjacent allies, particularly Canada - from missile threats due to

accidental launches and attacks from irrational "rogue states." But, opponents charge, far from increasing security, the plan is likely to provoke a nuclear escalation, particularly on the part of China. "Because China has only two dozen missiles capable of reaching the United States, US deployment of even a very limited NMD system would probably lead China to strengthen its deterrent capability by expanding its long-range missile force."

India and Pakistan would likely follow, concluded a report spearheaded by the CIA.

But an effective defence may not be one of the problems that faces them. Many have charged that ballistic missile defense is not only politically dangerous, but technically unfeasible. McGill professor Rex Brynen questions the possibility that a system like the one that Bush envisions will even get anywhere close to achieving its hoped-for effectiveness. "It's just not feasible," he said. "It's cheaper and easier to penetrate a BMD than to build one."

He echoes the concerns of many US defence experts. A report from the Union of Concerned Scientists, a Boston-based political advocacy group, says that "A key weakness of the planned defense is that it could be easily defeated by simple countermeasures."

Warren similarly said that "The technology is nowhere near ready. And even if it were, it would be easy to circumvent, by high- or low-tech means."

Meanwhile, the NMD could have cost between \$60 billion, for the less ambitious Democratic plan, and \$240 billion, for the kind of broad-based system Bush is a proponent of. All this in addition to the \$70-billion spent since Ronald Reagan announced his fantasy of a defence that would render nuclear weapons "impotent and obsolete."

Some have suggested that spending this kind of money works out as a kind of subsidy to the four "lumbering behemoths of the apocalypse" that are the main defense contractors in the US: Lockheed Martin, Boeing, Raytheon and TRW. Despite a stream of massive defence department payouts including \$2.2 billion, they continue to struggle financially. These companies, in turn, have funded organizations such as the Center for Security Policy which have prominent voices in political debate over the NMD.

CANADA: NO LONGER A BYSTANDER

When Russian president Vladimir Putin visited Ottawa in December of last year, he was eager to talk with PM Jean Chretien about forming a united opposition to the NMD. The two signed a pledge on nuclear stability, affirming their support for the ABM treaty, but Chretien remained noncommittal about actively opposing the US plan.

Challenged by Putin to take a stand

with Russia against the plan, he reacted cautiously. "[W]e're in a bit of a geographical bind because Russia is on one side and on the other side is the Americans, so we want to explore all the consequences for Canadians," Chretien said.

Canada's position on the plan has been ambiguous and conflicted all along. A National Post editorial on December 19 traced the government's ambivalence to the legacy of a dovish Lloyd Axworthy, the former Minister of Foreign Affairs, and a fervent opponent of missile defence plans.

"It's a tension between the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade and the Department of Defense. Foreign Affairs has pushed for nuclear disarmament," said T.V. Paul, McGill political science professor and specialist in nuclear arms issues.

"The NMD program raises very large issues for Canada and our endorsement of it. It would have very far-reaching consequences," said Paul Heinbecker, Assistant Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Trade.

Realistically, taking a stand on the issue would significantly alter Canada's already fragile place in the political and military fabric of North America.

"Canada probably has no choice if it wants to be associated with NORAD [North American Aerospace Defense Command]," said Paul.

On the other hand, Canada's treasured public image of nuclear caution and neutrality might not withstand alignment with the US in support of such a defence - especially the expanded version currently planned for a Bush administration. "It's not clear what endorsing the NMD will do to Canada's position on nuclear deterrence and non-proliferation," he said.

Then again, Canadian government concern may make little or no difference. Last March, US Deputy Secretary of Defense John Hamre assured Canadian journalists that the US intended to build the planned defence whether or not Canada was on board. In a surprising gesture of political indifference, president-elect (sort of) George Bush didn't even bother to call Canadian prime minister Jean "Poutine" after the Liberals won their third consecutive majority in last fall's federal election. And he announced in a speech last May that "[a] missile defense system should not only defend our country, it should defend our allies, with whom I will consult as we develop our plans," - whether or not, apparently, his allies want to be defended.

All of which means that if George W. Bush and the US government decide that, whatever the diplomatic and economic cost, and however unlikely it is to work, an expansive continental missile defence system is worth it, Canada will be dragged along for the ride.

Iraq: A Game of Life and Death

*New US government
renews commitment to
sanctions that have
created a thick
catalogue of atrocities*

BY CHARLES BAKER
Features Reporter

In Iraq, before the sanctions which have created a humanitarian tragedy that has scarred a generation, obesity was a severe problem. People had too much. Now they have too little.

Saddam Hussein is not suffering. The people have been hurt much more deeply. The devastation is unimaginable and, for many people, as it was for me, it was a war out of sight out of mind. The Iraqi people have been left to scramble for their lives.

Ten years after sanctions were first imposed, Iraq is being driven further and further into agony. The current aggressive US-British air strikes have caused significant civilian casualties, according to a United Nations report, and occur every other day. This oil-rich nation is becoming more and more underdeveloped.

Before the Gulf War, Iraq imported 70% of its food. Now, despite the vaunted oil-for-food program, Iraqis must plant whatever they can.

"I have to sell cigarettes to keep my family alive," says one boy. As with about half of Iraq's children, he has dropped out of school. "My father is old, my mother can't work and my brother is a conscript. I have to sell cigarettes to keep my family alive," he said.

The Gulf War itself badly damaged 40% of Iraq's 5,500 educational institutions. In Iraq, education used to be a priority but, under sanctions (and Saddam), it comes second to survival. If you do make it through school and on to university, you might wonder whether it's worth it. Queues for the Internet is not even an issue. Books from the 1970s and 80s are the latest works of reference.

Although there is, understandably, a brain drain from Iraq, some students are staying. "Here education is free, so I think it's my turn to pay it back" says one young woman. "I'd stay here and I'd serve my country." But in Iraq's blockaded economy, teachers and civil servants earn around CAN\$1 a week. Out on the streets, many choose to sell their books to supplement their income.

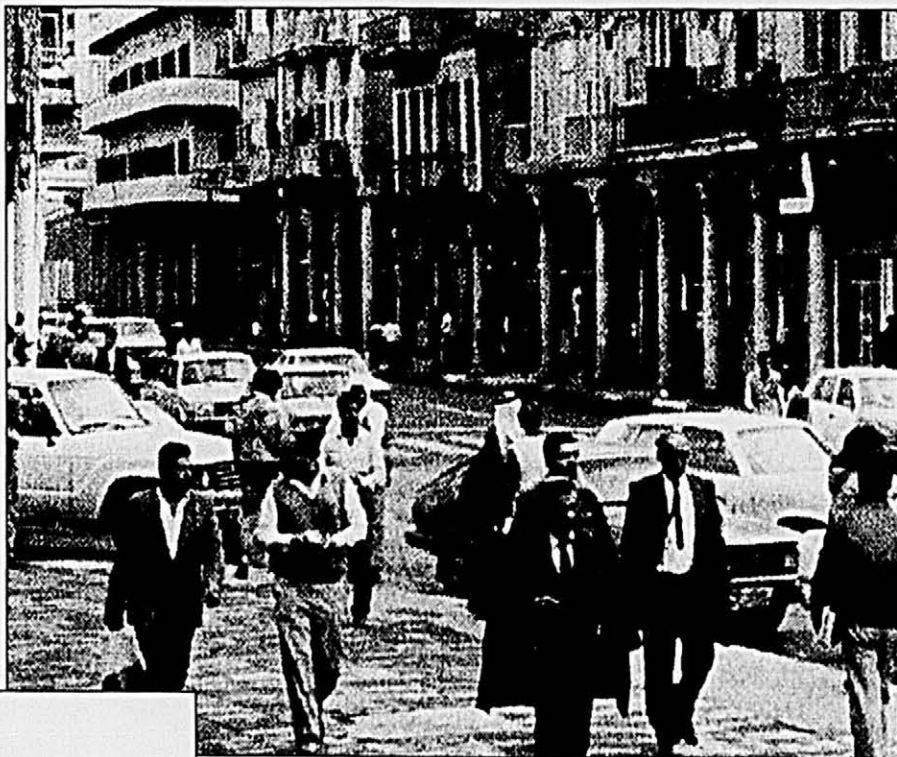
Many women attempt to abort their pregnancies in fear of giving birth to deformed and malnourished children. The women usually die in the process. Even for babies lucky enough to leave hospital, the prospects are a life of poverty and misery. In Iraq's hospitals, doctors say there are frequent power cuts and only rudimentary equipment because of sanctions. Many babies are severely malnourished and, of every 1,000 babies born, 108 will die before their first birthday. More than one million Iraqis have died altogether. Pediatrician Dr.

Abdullah Hamzawi showed visitors one baby in his rundown ward. "She weighs only 40% of the weight she is supposed to be," Hamzawi said. "Such babies carry a 50% risk of mortality. I just ask why should this happen," he adds.

It is impossible not to become tangled in the politics of this absurdity. Different people will offer you different stories, whether it be because of biological weapons, Iraq's oil reserves or, as Madeleine Albright confessed on *Sixty Minutes*, that the half a million children who died (more than those in Hiroshima) was a "price worth paying" in order to curb the unpredictability of Saddam Hussein. The United Nations officially says that 567,000 Iraqi children have died as a consequence of economic sanctions.

Nations Humanitarian Coordinator in Iraq. Halliday had been personally appointed by Secretary-General Kofi Annan. He announced that after thirty four years working with the United Nations, his disgust at America's persistence for sanctions against Iraq was too overwhelming to allow him to continue.

Roger Normand, from the Centre for Economic and Social Rights, notes that the "US is standing on its own. Britain, once the ally of America in Iraq, is distancing herself from the atrocities."



In December, the United Nations Subcommission on the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights, made up of experts named by their governments, criticized the sanctions for condemning "an innocent people to hunger, disease, ignorance and even death." A report to the panel by a Belgian law professor, Marc Bossuyt, said the sanctions were "unequivocally illegal." The theory "behind economic sanctions translating into pressure on the government for change" is bankrupt, said Bossuyt. He said they had caused a humanitarian disaster "comparable to the worst catastrophes of the past decades."

France and Russia have already flown medical flights into the recently re-opened Saddam

Hussein International Airport. And, on the Dec. 22, 2000, China flew a government delegation to Iraq, the third permanent member of the UN Security Council to send a plane in defiance of the embargo on air travel to Iraq. French news agency AFP has revealed that Egypt's national airline is to resume flights to Iraq in a matter of weeks too. This may be the first international problem to land on the White House desk of George W. Bush.

Further information can be obtained from:

United Nations Office of the Iraq Program at www.un.org/Depts/oip

Permanent Mission of Iraq to the United Nations at <http://www.iraqi-mission.org>

Cambridge University Sanctions Against Iraq at www.cam.ac.uk/societies/casi/lists.html

Things are about to get worse for the Iraqis. Once news had reached Iraq that Bush had finally been elected, one Baghdad taxi driver remarked, "This is not good news. If the son is anything like his father, we face difficult days ahead."

He was right. Within twenty four hours of his nomination, the new Secretary of State, Colin Powell, announced in the New York Times on Dec. 17 that he wished to "re-energize sanctions against Iraq."

Nonetheless, the mood in the international community is changing. No one seriously doubts the danger of Saddam Hussein, but many are desperate to see the elimination of non-military sanctions. The most significant shift occurred on the Oct. 31, 1998, when Irishman Denis J. Halliday resigned from his post as United

Above left: The aftermath of an American bombing in Iraq.
Above right: a scene from pre-sanctions downtown Baghdad.
Right: Iraqi children have been hit hardest by US-led sanctions.



FACTS ABOUT OUR FOUNDER

One of the worst and yet most memorable phases in the life of intrepid Daily founder, W.E. Gladstone, master florist and the world's first blindfolded neurosurgeon, was the accidental discovery in his restroom that mullets were, in fact, not only a strange species of sightless fish but also an incredibly attractive hairstyle. "Pip, pip! I say, this so-called 'hockey-hair' suits my devastating profile quite marvelously. The ladies at Schwartz's will swoon even more than those at Warshaw's! Once they run their acrylic fingered hands through my chemically treated mane, they will truly realize that I am both 'business in front and party in back!' Ah, the glory of monster trucks and silky, Vaseline-scented hair!" And thus the mullet was born, resulting in generations of satisfied fashion-conscious beings.



A Doll's House

With apologies to Henrik Ibsen

BY RENATE ROBERTSON
The McGill Daily

I have a dollhouse. My mother got it for me at a yard sale. It's blue and the inside of it is white, except I painted some of the rooms with light watercolors. It's a very big, primitive dollhouse, like a cave. Some of the doorways are broken.

There are no stairs so I took an old phone receiver with the cord hanging off of it, and I made the receiver into a bed with the cord hanging down as a spiral ladder. My dolls can climb up and down the ladder. Sometimes they get in fights and one doll will push another doll off the ladder two stories down to the ground.

I think the phone is really comfortable to sleep on because of all the buttons on it.

I wish that I could shrink and live in my dollhouse. I read books about people shrinking and living in dollhouses. Or people who are already small and live in dollhouses.

My doll family: John, father. Susan, mother. Lucy, age 12. David, age 11. Marian, 10. Eleanor, 9. Michael, 3. Aster, 2. The Baby, 1. They have to share bedrooms. Times are hard but there is always plastic bread, and some oranges and bananas, and some meat, some muffins, and soda. And they have toys that I have collected for them. I made

them a toybox out of posterboard cut up into squares and taped together into a cube. And sometimes they have She-Ra. With a shaven head she is their tough, butch, older sister. She lives away from home but she comes to visit sometimes.

Lucy is the luckiest and the most incongruous in the family. She is china with blonde hair and flouncy pink Victorian-era skirts and pantalets. Next to her, they all look like refugees. But she is really nice and acts in a responsible, mature manner behooving the eldest child. She has problems sitting down, though, because her skirts get in the way.

David is active and quick. He picks on Eleanor too much, pushing her off the ladder or ignoring her. He likes to play with Marian. Everyone likes to play with Marian.

Marian is beautiful and kind, if bossy. Nature has rendered her an invalid. Her rubber legs are snapped off at the knee. As surgeon I have jammed them back together with pins. She is fortunate enough, however, to have a beautiful yellow dress that matches her yellow hair, which has a red painted bow in it. Because of their physical similarity she and Lucy like to play together.

Eleanor is quiet and shy and plain. She is an orphan. She came from the street. She has red shoes. She doesn't bend well so she has to stand up all the time, or lie down

flat. Her pink dress is homemade. She helps look after the babies. The babies are not much worth mentioning. They consist mainly of cry and demand.

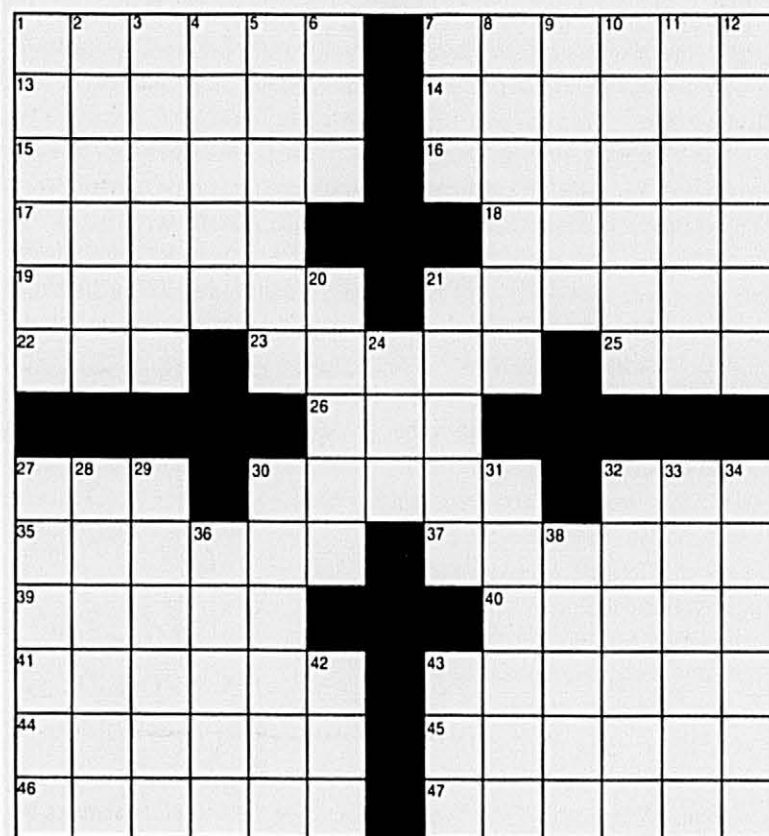
John and Susan lie together in bed on top of the sheets, side by side, staring up at the ceiling. John wears his suit and tie. Susan wears her ragged checked wrap-around skirt and sleeveless top that I made for her from a box of scraps. Above them a brown spider crawls on the ceiling. The spider is going to have spiderlets.

My dollhouse is in the corner of my room in front of the radiator. Balls of dust roll silently around the house like clouds during the night when I sleep and the day when I am in school. I come home and make a patchwork quilt for Lucy, from the box of scraps. I stuff it with a kind of cobwebby synthetic stuffing I have. The quilt is beautiful and suits Lucy. One side is all rosebuds and the other side is squares cut from a lake at sunset.

Now they're all, my dolls, lying like mummies in a cardboard box. I wrapped each one individually in Kleenex after making them watch me take all the furniture out of their house. Then I took the dollhouse and the box of furniture and people upstairs to the attic. They're all sleeping except one. Eleanor still has her eyes open and you can hear her breathing.

CROSSES

BY DEREK BOWMAN
The Manitoban



Across

- 1 Tremors
- 7 "Rock the _____," hit by The Clash
- 13 Father and son car racers
- 14 Come up
- 15 Not these
- 16 Enlightenment of Zen Buddhists
- 17 Yellow Power Ranger before Aisha
- 18 "Titanic" actor Billy, and others
- 19 "American Pie" actor Levy
- 21 Group of six lines
- 22 Mackenzie River, aka _____ Cho
- 23 Society for mutual aid
- 25 O'Neill and Sullivan
- 26 Wheat, en français
- 27 Crone
- 30 Sorted documents
- 32 By way of rail?
- 35 Star, en français
- 37 Using a PC keyboard
- 39 New Oldsmobile model
- 40 Like some voices or cavities
- 41 Feared 13th-century Turkish people
- 43 Yummy yellow fruit
- 44 Legendary movie flop
- 45 Projects
- 46 Certain metals
- 47 Those showing great promise

Down

- 1 One who cites
- 2 False
- 3 Comparably stoned
- 4 New Hampshire college town
- 5 In the wrong
- 6 Snake around
- 7 These, en français
- 8 "Maybe I'm _____," Wings hit
- 9 Regulate to
- 10 Jane Eyre author Charlotte
- 11 "Absolutely!"
- 12 Robberies
- 20 Jazz pianist Blake
- 21 Snow and rain together
- 24 Green at the gills
- 27 "The _____ On," Glenn Fry hit
- 28 Etta James hit
- 29 Famed German dramatist
- 30 Like many arrangements
- 31 Social go-getter
- 32 Face
- 33 More stupid
- 34 Have _____ of water
- 36 Hopping mad, I score?
- 38 Flight 103 airline
- 42 Jrs' fathers
- 43 Pen company

Dude, where's The Daily?

McGill's rockinest and most read publication has temporarily moved during the renovation of Shatner. (What renovations, you ask? Just look around at the building being done by our efficient student government. Direct further questions to Kevin [name] at the SSMU front desk)



Our Editorial Offices are now located in New Chancellor Day Hall, Room 620, right next to the Stewart Biology Building. We are still at 398-6784 or editors@mcgilldaily.com

Our Business Office is up the street, in the coach house right next to Thomson House. They can still be reached at 398-6790

Turn to page 8 for more information

On Wednesday, January 24 at 5:30, The Daily is holding elections for the two culture editors.

Elections will take place in Chancellor Day Hall Room 620. Candidates must be Daily staff.

For more information, contact us at 398-6784 or elections@mcgilldaily.com

TimeLine Queues Up For Stardom

McGill biochem student and friends make time for music and Sno AP

By JEAN EDELSTEIN
The McGill Daily

If a stylist had been involved in the cover design of TimeLine's self-titled album, lead guitarist and McGill U1 Biochem student Ferdows Laraya might have been pictured wearing something a little more trendy than a "McGill Science" hoodie. However, Laraya's choice of clothing seems extremely appropriate in light of the entirely homegrown nature of the CD that he and bandmates Andrew Kinoshita and James Bunton put together when they converged for the summer in Toronto.

The trio have been playing together since meeting at Lawrence Park High School around grade 10. "We always played together in school and outside, in stage bands and stuff," Bunton explained. More importantly, however, Laraya and Kinoshita began to jam together as they picked up guitar skills, soon to be joined by drummer Bunton. At first, the band mostly stuck to playing music by other groups, like the Red Hot Chili Peppers and Jamiroquai. The latter group influenced Ferdows and Andrew to pick up the didgeridoo, which Ferdows plays on one of the songs on the album. The relative scarcity of didgeridoos in the greater Toronto area did not daunt him. "I got into that through Jamiroquai...me and Andrew sort of picked it up at the same time, and we just sort of practiced with whatever we could find, PVC pipes and stuff," Laraya said, mildly embarrassed at his apparent youthful ingenuity.

Throughout their high school years, the group performed sporadically. "We always tried to focus some ener-

gy on covers just for the fun of it," Bunton said, a strategy that got them several gigs in Toronto. "[We played at] the 360 in Toronto, the Reverb at Toronto, we played at Starbucks once," Laraya recalled.

However, last summer, despite having diverged for their first year at university (Bunton studies criminal justice at Guelph; Kinoshita is at U of T) the group got back together, intent on the pursuit of a new ambition: to cut an

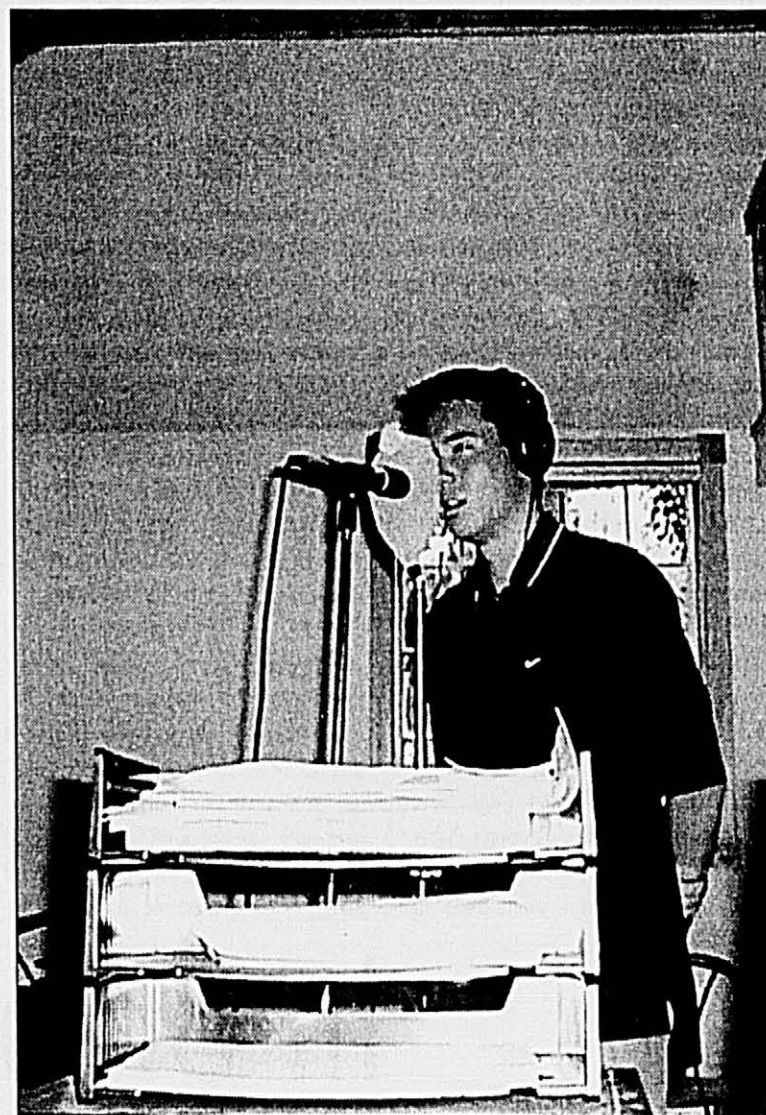
album. "At the start of the summer, we started writing a couple of different songs...we figured that we had enough to put some- explained, "we've distributed most of [the CDs] just to friends and family, so the response has been good. Obviously," However, Laraya added, "we posted our website on a couple of message boards...a lot of people visited and they emailed us fan mail, asking us if we'd be willing to send us a CD." As a result of their use of the internet, the

"I see us playing in ten years...We have a lot of fun doing it, that's the first thing. Even if no one else like it, we'll keep doing it anyway, because we like it."



Are they working on buskier vocals?

thing together. We had all of the production stuff on Ferdows's computer," Bunton said.



La, la, la

group has developed contacts throughout the US, especially among fans of the Dave Matthews Band and Tim Reynolds. "That's a common response, we think," Laraya said of people's tendency to compare TimeLine's music to that of Dave Matthews, not reluctant to admit that he, Bunton, and Kinoshita have been heavily influenced by Matthews and Co. "Before Andrew started to sing, we played a lot of covers...when we started Dave Matthews he started singing," Bunton explained of the band's sound progression.

"I think if we do anything as a band, personally I don't want to record new stuff, I'd rather write stuff and do live shows. It's really fun," Laraya said in view of the band's future. All three members are dedicated to academic, as well as musical pursuits, and are quite pragmatically aware that their music

might remain a hobby, rather than a career. "School's really important," Bunton commented, in a statement sure to warm any tuition-paying parent's heart. "It's hard to commit to taking a year off...[the music] is sort of taking second spot." But he continued, whether or not the band makes it big, he imagines they will remain together. "I see us playing in ten years, have the families over, and we'll go off and play. We have a lot of fun doing it, that's the first thing. Even if no one else likes it, we'll keep doing it anyway, because we like it."

TimeLine will be performing live at Sno AP on Thursday, January 11th from 12-1. To download their music for free in MP3 form, visit www.geocities.com/music_timeliner, or you can request a CD directly from the band at music_timeliner@yahoo.com.

McGill student by day, artist by night? If you have a super special artistic talent (or even a plain special one) Daily Culture wants to write about you! Email culture@mcgilldaily.com.

the BOOKSHELF

Thank God It's Only Once a Week

TUESDAYS WITH MORRIE

MITCH ALBOM
RANDOM HOUSE
198 pp.

This book made it onto my Christmas list because it hadn't wavered from the New York Times bestseller list in at least half a year. From what I had heard, I expected it to be a unique account of a student's one on one meetings with his favourite professor, a situation some of us can relate to and would be willing to appreciate. As I unwrapped the package on Christmas morning I was shocked to see how small this book was. While the number of pages almost hits two hundred, this is achieved by the tiny size of each page and the great swaths of empty space left by the typeface. Though books should not be evaluated by their length, it is usually a good indication as to what kind of insight you are going to receive from a given volume.

Morrie Schwartz was the favourite professor of Mitch Albom as an undergraduate

at Brandeis University in Massachusetts. He promises to stay in touch with Morrie after graduation but instead goes on to a busy life as a sports journalist who does a bit of globe-trotting and a whole lot of forgetting about the important things in his life. One day he is flipping channels and he catches Ted Koppel doing a plug for Nightline and mentioning old Morrie Schwartz. Turns out Morrie is very sick and is teaching a class at the college and advising his students on the progression of his illness. Albom decides to get back in touch with Morrie and they then start a series of weekly meetings where Albom records Morrie's wise words on life and love.

With alternating interludes of hokiness and raw emotion, this book keeps getting your hopes up and then disappointing. The main weakness seems to be Albom himself and his unwillingness to really open himself up to either Morrie or the reader. Each meeting is usually described in less than five hundred words, which may serve to make his book accessible to more people

(thereby keeping it on the bestseller list for so long), but also seems to confine his and Morrie's insight to trite platitudes which could easily double as Hallmark cards.

While his underwhelming accounts of their meetings invariably disappoint, his writing style can only be described as preciously puffy. The brief chapters end with hokey hooks like "It might have stayed that way had I not been flicking through the TV channels late one night, when something caught my ear..." Those dots are his. This style eventually becomes insufferable and makes you wonder if Albom was so unsure of the reader's willingness to push on to the next five-page chapter that he felt obliged to end each one with an emaciated cliffhanger.

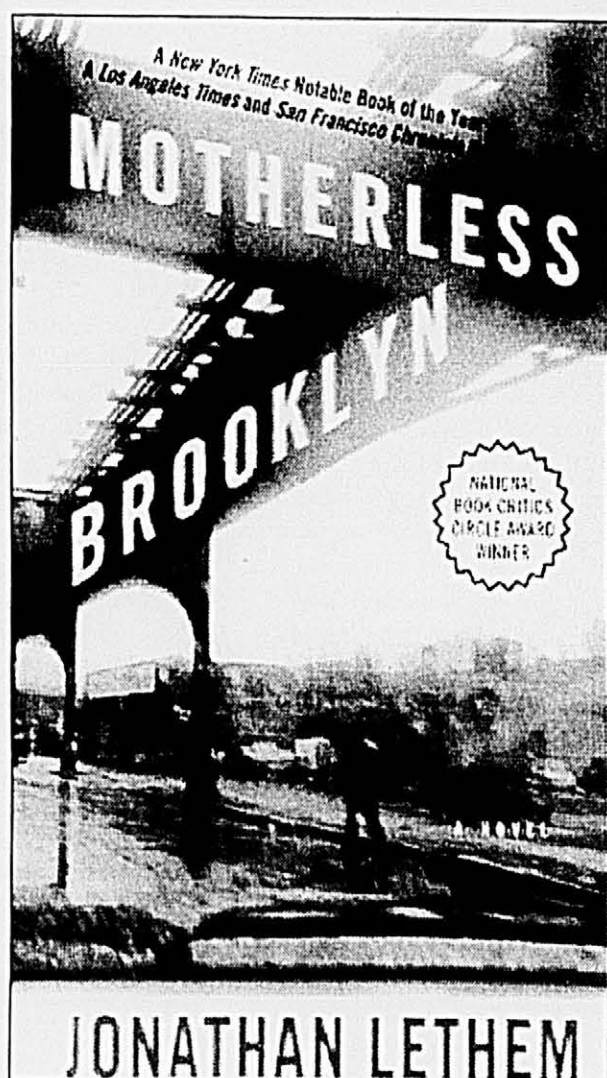
This is almost a sweet tale of two men sharing their feelings on the world. Unfortunately, the author's unwillingness to leave the wading pool of human emotion and his reliance on baroque mannerisms in his prose leave the reader feeling as though they got a cold appetizer instead of an entrée. - Tyler Hargreaves

tuesdays with
Morrie

an old man, a young man,
and life's greatest lesson

Mitch Albom

In Brooklyn; No Moms



MOTHERLESS BROOKLYN
JONATHAN LETHEM
RANDOM HOUSE
311 pp.

Lionel Essrog, aka the Free Human Freakshow, speaks with the voice of the outcast who is fully aware of his position in society. Lionel is an amateur detective who operates on both sides of the law as an employee of his unquestioned mentor and surrogate father, Frank Minna. Frank is leader of the Minna Men, a gang who spent their childhoods together in a Brooklyn orphanage - hence the book's title - and formed a tenuous hierarchical siblinghood under Frank's leadership. When Frank is offed, the Minna Men are thrown into chaos and mistrust, and Lionel assumes the task of unravelling Minna's death. Lionel is witty and intelligent, but hindered by the compulsive disorder known as Tourette's Syndrome.

Essrog is a romantic masterpiece of a character: clear-headed, suave, tender, tough, wry, needy, loyal, and lonely. He is both sophisticated and provincial. Though he has rarely left his birth town of Brooklyn, his personal history has rid him of naivete. He has a cool, keen mind and a warm, gentle nature, but his tics render

him freakish and unattractive to most women. Due to the nature of his condition he is accepted as normal by hardly anyone: most people are able to see him only as crazy or as deliberately disruptive. In this way he is both awkwardly noticeable and invisible to the people he meets. One is struck by the injustice of Essrog's situation, though he maintains equilibrium. He's an attractive character whose attractiveness is hidden by the prejudice of others, but he is not squeamish or pathetic and he has self-respect. His character is not, therefore, one that the reader can possibly pity. The joke is on the characters in the book who offhandedly dismiss Lionel as a freak, failing to grasp the depth of his character. "Frank used to say he liked having you around because people mistook your craziness for stupidity," one character tells Essrog. Essrog, however, is neither crazy nor stupid.

Essrog's first-person narration is a steady commentary on the nature of Tourette's. Throughout the plot, he is constantly describing his symptoms, his tics, his compulsions, and relating his syndrome to other parts of life, like Donald Duck, and the subway. As he says, "I've got meta-Tourette's." The book is as much a catalog of Tourette's experience as

it is a detective novel. The Tourette's device is a superb channel for revealing wordplay as well: Essrog is compelled to mentally and verbally mutate selected phrases, especially his own name, until they are unrecognizable.

Lethem's other characters are well-sketched staples of noir fiction: the little-girl-with-dreams-turned-hardened-and-lonely-dame, the simple but trustworthy sidekick, the large lunkish Scandinavian hitman, and the unnameable Italian Clients. For a millennial touch there is also an omnipresent Japanese corporation moving pawns from the wings, if chess rules permitted such a thing.

The plot of the mystery is intricate and well-assembled, though not as central or riveting as the characters. It is their driving passions and metamorphosing relationships that carry the book. It is rife with conspiracy and, to use Frank Minna's term, "wheels within wheels." Essrog's compulsiveness, his need for order, and, most importantly, his love for Minna, lead him to finally solve the crime of Minna's murder. Though *Motherless Brooklyn* is moody, funny and neurotic, it is not exactly a book that I would recommend flipping through for the sake of the denouement.

- Renate Robertson

Posters Encourage Redecorating

Imaginus sale gives students opportunity to enjoy mass-produced art

BY JEAN EDELSTEIN
The McGill Daily

What statement does one's taste in art say about oneself? The Imaginus poster sale, set up in the Shatner Ballroom for the first two days of classes, was a call to redecoration. The accordion-style cardboard walls plastered with hundreds of images offered a wide variety of options, catering to the aesthetic tastes of the entire student demographic, from prints of classic masterpieces for the aspirant high-brow, to colorful shots of wild animals with inspirational statements printed boldly underneath for believers in self-esteem, to the ubiquitous "Table of Mixology" for frequently-intoxicated scientific types.

But despite this incredible range, students seemed, for the most part, to wander through the array uncertainly, reluctant to make any rash poster decisions. Why the hesitancy? Are they buying a piece of art, or are they buying a new identity? And can one really consider art purchased under the mass-market Imaginus moniker to be art, or is it just an attempt for students to conform by owning their very own copy of Van Gogh's *Starry Night*?

Gia Kim and Stephanie Patrick stood in front of a section of black-and-white photos, including several picturing small children dressed in oversized clothing kissing each other chastely. How cute. Or not.

"They're okay to look at, but if you have them on your wall every day..." Patrick said dubiously. Kim was cheerfully oblivious of the philosophical implications of poster choices. "It's the theme of your room, I guess," she said of what motivates her selection of wall art, rather than other considerations. "You have certain things that you like, you know... I like the baby pictures with the sunflowers, 'cause I like sunflowers," she offered as an example, referring to the work of artist Anne Geddes, which features infants dressed as flowers and insects and the like. Kim similarly justified her preference for, "[Van Gogh's] sunflower painting; I would buy that," she said, when questioned whether mass-produced masterpieces are overly clichéd. "I wouldn't care about that," she said. "I don't really look at the pictures, I just see what the meanings of them are." Poster-shopping is a long and ponderous process for Patrick. "I'm not really here to purchase anything," she admitted, "I'm just looking... so I haven't really ever regretted a poster decision."

Will Stevens paused in front of a monster-sized print of Edward Munch's *The Scream*. "Whatever looks good in my room," he said, somewhat echoing Kim's attitude. However, Stevens admitted, image does come into play. "People will judge you by what you have on your walls." And what would he say if he found himself in a room with poorly-clad walls? "Grow up," he said



Decisions, decisions

with a slight snicker.

Though they appeared to be examining a selection of prints by Van Gogh and other masters, Adrian Bollinger and Mark Ayl identified themselves as non-serious shoppers. "We come here for entertainment purposes, just to look at the pictures," Bollinger said, expressing a degree of disappointment in those who get their decorations from something as popular as the poster sale. "It's tacky," he said of plastering one's room with reproductions, something he considers to be a poor way to assert individuality, "unless tacky is what you are." "My walls are pure white," Ayl said, a note of rebellious pride in his voice. "[Fine art] is to be appreciated, not appraised." "I have a flowered wallpaper... when I was a little kid, my parents wanted a girl," Bollinger said, showing his complete indifference to decorations. "And an 'A-Team' bedspread!" Ayl interjected.

However, Bollinger conceded, the Imaginus sale might even have something for a poster purist like himself, in the case of prints of posters created to advertise films. "The actual movie poster would really be no different from the original movie poster, it would be a reproduction, I think that's a bit more respectable in my opinion," he conceded, "you got me on one point there, I would buy those."

Maybe no one's walls are quite safe from the designs of capitalism.

cult.hit

BY J. KELLY NESTRUCK

Everyone mentioned it in their year-end retrospectives as the high point of an otherwise boring and blasé election campaign. It was hailed as a coup by the ravaged CBC, reasserting itself as the cultural epicentre of Canada. Indeed, Rick Mercer and the cast of *This Hour Has 22 Minutes* pulled off a brilliant stunt when they started a petition to change Stockwell Day's first name to Doris. They got over 3% of the electorate to sign the online petition, more than a million people, and successfully mocked Day's proposal to hold widespread, people-powered referendums on any subject.

Alas, there was a dark side to this campaign. As everyone who gleefully submitted their email address to the show now knows, Salter Streets Production, the company behind *22 Minutes*, has begun to send out spam to the million plus people who electronically signed the petition. Before Christmas, I received an email enticing me to buy mugs and sweatshirts from the 22minutes.com website, and just last week, I received an email imploring me to watch the premiere of the new show *Blackfly*. The

joke that made the election campaign has left a bad aftertaste. I feel betrayed by Mercer and his cohorts; the practical joke turned out to be a brilliant marketing trick.

Of course, perhaps I'm taking it a little too far. The spam has a remove button at the end and, for a moment, I considered purchasing an online item for my stepfather. It's just that satire and crass consumerism don't usually go hand in hand.

If I shake the bad residue away, I can still appreciate the resonance of the statement that Mercer was making during the election campaign. Too often, the ability of art to make a difference is considered an idealistic concept. Art as activism has been downplayed in the past decade, as if aestheticism is the only valid component of art.



Stockwell?



Sarah Lazarevic

It used to be that certain art was deemed subversive. Morality squads would close down the production of a certain play and the production code ensured that vice was strictly punished in Hollywood films. It was a given that music like rock 'n' roll could corrupt the youth

of our country.

Times have changed. Eminem can be heard gay-bashing and woman-hating on the Top 40. Hardly anyone blinks an eye. Sure, there is the moralising and pontificating that excited teenage fans are going to pull a Columbine, but no one is arresting Slim Shady. If there is any influence attributed to art, it is always a negative one.

That's what was so refreshing about *This Hour Has 22 Minutes'* Doris Day petition. In an era where the HRDC is attacked for giving out money to innovative and subversive artists, it is good to see a publicly-funded satirical show make a difference, even if it was just a breath of fresh air in a stale election.

Too bad the marketers always grab hold of a good idea.

Has Gus Van Sant Gone Psycho?

BY DANIELLE HOFFMAN
Culture Reporter

Have you seen *Good Will Hunting*? Then don't bother to go see this movie. While it's not an exact copy, there are enough similarities to make *Finding Forrester* a poor repeat of Gus Van Sant's earlier film.

The Robin Williams character in this case is the crotchety, reclusive author William Forrester, played by Sean Connery. Through a very predictable plot device, he reluctantly begins to tutor a budding literary genius named Jamal (newcomer Rob Brown). Through Forrester's friendship and mentorship, Jamal both realizes his genius and encourages the jealous animosity of one of his new teachers (F. Murray Abraham).

The beauty of *Good Will Hunting* was its tight, intelligent script, and if the lead characters of *Finding Forrester* are literary wonders, the script, and, most importantly, the words of the two authors should reflect that. Instead, Van Sant cops out, with blurred, illegible images of typewritten

words, and (when Jamal's work is being read) fade-outs into cheesy music with shots of awed listeners. The dialogue between Jamal and his friends often seems painfully contrived, and almost any attempts at humor fall flat. Another prob-

lem is that several sub-plots are unresolved or simply dropped altogether, like that of Anna Paquin as an irritatingly cutesy love interest, or his circle of friends, led by Fly (Fly Williams III).

All of these factors contribute to the fact

that *Finding Forrester* is simply a boring movie. Connery does what he can, but his character is both flat and unbelievable, and its difficult to empathize with him or the bland character of Jamal. By the end of the film (which seems much longer than

its two hour running time), I was waiting for the Matt Damon cameo and trying to figure out why Michael Pitt, as Jamal's good friend, was so familiar. It's not a terrible movie; but if you haven't seen *Good Will Hunting*, go rent that instead.

Yeah, you were too lazy last semester. Get into the best extra-curricular activity ever! Culture Meeting, Tuesday at 4:00 in the Shatner Cafeteria. Look for the coolest kids in the room.

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GRATEFUL GRANNIES' ANAL GANG-BANG

4

She stood there
in her cherry red apron.
Spotted white Snoopys,
like lilies, all over her.

"Would you like
some more tea, dear?"
my Granny asked me,
holding the tray in her
wrinkled hands, like
John the Baptist's
severed head.

I smiled at my granny.
The dear. Shook my head
no. "I've already 'ad
four cups!" I protested,
the cup in my hand sloshing
milky white tea onto the
porcelain plate she'd so
thoughtfully provided.

"Four!" she exclaimed,
spittle glistening on her tight
thin lips, like seawater on
an orca's inky skin. "Why,
you've only just begun!"

Without a word, she staggered
over to me. "Here!" she said.
I accepted her cup, and brought
its warmth to my lips. I closed
my eyes and felt the hot brew
trickle down my throat.

"You sick boy," I heard my
Grams say. My eyes popped open.
"Did you really come over here
for tea?" I dropped the cup onto
the carpet, the tea spilling and
soaking into the brown
shag rug.

—Sully The Cat

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sexual assault at McGill and beyond, please come to one of
our information sessions to find out how you can volunteer.

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Or look for our table at Activities Night, January 10

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The Canada-South Africa Education Management Program (CSAEMP) will host a series of interactive and multi-media presentations. Delegates visiting from South Africa will share their experiences, challenges and successes in transforming and democratizing the educational system in post-apartheid South Africa.

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POST-HIPPO

SEX COLUMN

BY JOHN LESARE
The McGill Daily

Kissing Off The Daily

Your 2001 Guide to the Luxurious Lip Lock

Naturally it wouldn't take a brain surgeon, or even a sexologist for that matter, to realize that many people brought in the New Year in traditional, yet widely varied ways. No doubt some were savouring the sparkling bubbly of conquest, while others tipped their heavy heads over porcelain bowls. I sat lonely, dreaming Ovaltine fantasies, and scattering my thoughts over past midnight countdowns, narrowing inevitably to the one which became the dawn for my last ill-fated stab at monogamous-type-behavior. I realized at this point, as a smattering of related images hit the back of my mind like butter on a skillet, that the New Year's Eve kiss was a staple which, like Dick Clark's formaldehyde face and champagne, could be counted on to fly into action every December 31.

I've always been fascinated with the kiss myself since the grade 7 boys started to kiss their girlfriends after school, and although my first real kiss didn't come until the ripe old age of 17 (no snickering), I've placed plenty of stock in it since. I've even given up on girls because of a bad record and spent countless months chasing down the ones that left my lips stinging with as much anticipation as a David Lynch trailer. But the more pressing questions here aren't my own personal preferences (licking teeth and biting lips), but rather the nuts and bolts of kissing. The nitty-gritty of why, who and how, is what this column will attempt to examine about kissing, and in keeping with the continued

tradition of this column, we'll try to sneak in a few tips and give some actual examples of things that work (as well as some things which don't).

Everyone seems to get just a wee bit antsy whenever the topic of kissing habits comes up, especially when discussing their own. It's almost as if you've asked someone to share their high school poetry assignment when you ask for details about their mouth-to-mouth techniques. People tend to worry that they are no good, or that you think they're no good. They worry about saliva - too much or too little? They worry about the tongue question. Eyes open or closed? And your hands - where should they be during and after, or even before laying a smacker on your smitten smoochie?

Kissing was, and still is, used as a tool of ideology and meaning, with examples ranging from the use of the practice to reinforce the patriarchal hegemonic control of human relationships to the famed Mafia "kiss of death," (I wonder, do bikers kiss?) The ultimate point here is, of course, that kissing is not like riding a bike. It's not like tying a tie. It's not even like hairstyling, although that comparison could be getting closer. It's really not like anything else we do, and although it often stands as a metonym for the sexual experience as a whole, as in popular advertising and entertainment, it is clearly more than simply the precursor to intercourse. The kiss, in effect, has long

been mired in the mud of the sex cliché - a victim of our culture of consumption which places more emphasis on the big bangs than the light flutters. Just visit Chapters or Indigo and you'll realize there are plenty of books on how to perform intercourse well and with variety, but few if any books are devoted to the lost art of lip-lock.

Judging someone exclusively on the first kiss might be a bit harsh. However, if you allow for nervous apprehension (which itself can be titillating in its passivity and expectation of more to come), the first intimate lip contact you have with someone can tell you whether you'll jive physically with them. So you want to make a good first-kiss "impression." Literally.

Here are a few inept kissing characters I've encountered:

a) The tongue thruster - self-explanatory, and usually a problem among over-aggressive boys. Solution: discover the pleasure and creativity possible with tongueless kissing. Or if you understand the lingo better, take some of the "French" out of that

egory is a little harder to define since, ironically, boringness can be of infinite variety, but here I am simply referring to the person who does not change their technique to reflect their partner's need/style, and who does not, and this is key, move away from lip kissing, and who fails to use other peripheral devices (hands) to enhance the feeling of a kiss.

Done well, the kiss can make both parties feel like they are the only people in the whole world that matter to each other. Not to be confined to sexual prelude, the kiss holds prominent court, especially with this writer, (who likes to be in the midst of one at shared orgasms), during sex, by heightening tensions and adding personal connections to sexual love. Think of Vivian, Julia Robert's prostitute character who refused to kiss her tricks in *Pretty Woman*.

Good kissing is variety of touch. It is biting and moving, and touching his or her face with your hands. It is tender and it is aggressive. It breathes life into a sexual encounter and helps calm the over-charged sexual nerves afterwards. It is an anecdote for sex cliché, but only if it is paid attention to beyond its function as a means to an end. Think back. Think back to those days when all you did was make-out with your grade 7 boy/girlfriend (or grade 11 if you're me). Think about Leonard Cohen's "Beautiful Loser" Edith, and her attempts at unspecific kisses to revive her boring sexual life. Think about tongues, lips and teeth, and how they all come to together. Bite and savor her or him. Most importantly remember, there may be a time and place to search for that G-spot between the legs, but there's one G-spot that's much easier to find and deserves as much attention, and its right under your nose.

Things to try: bite the tongue, not hard, but with some gusto (easier with tongue rings); lick teeth (my personal fave - may feel weird at first); brush lips, and ease into a kiss; bite lips, especially suck the upper one; involve the chin!

Email me at laid@botmail.com and tell me how it goes. Next week: Forbidden sex - tell me about YOURS!!!

“Kissing was, and still is, used as a tool of ideology and meaning...it's clearly more than simply the precursor to intercourse of any sort.”

Okay let's be clear. We're not kissing Mom here. This isn't the Montreal two-cheek, a booster of the kissing cliché. We're not even talking about trying to get your story better copy position in *The Daily* by kissing an editor (ewwww). We're talking about the kind of kiss which, as one of my most avid and sharp readers pointed out to me, is actually a form of sex in and of itself. I'll refer to it as the "intimate kiss" in order to keep it simple stupid. As we've discovered in the past columns, the key to understanding what works with sex is first to understand what doesn't work - both in general and with regards to your specific tastes.

"frenchkiss."

b) The suction cup - AKA "girlfriend in a coma" or "zombie-boy" - this affliction is common among those who simply choose not to entertain any possibility of a technique and choose instead, as my first girlfriend once put it, to be kissed. This is, of course, a misnomer and clearly illogical, since the kiss is a physical dialogue, which like any type of sex, involves contributions from all parties involved. It is also a common trait of the inebriated kisser, as is the next one:

c) The slobberer - who has for a long time gotten the worst rap among these cast of characters, but whose problem is possibly the easiest to solve. Personally, I think a little more lubricant than is necessary is infinitely better than any sort of lack, but what a saliva-surplus sufferer can do is simply to realize that a kiss can move away from the lips of your partner briefly, brushing the air with your lips, allowing precious time for swallowing that spit and allowing the dried and stale air in your apartment to do its job. Then just dive back in and revel in your slippery, sliding wonderland, without drowning your partner.

The boring kisser - perhaps this cat-

And the Party Still Has Not Ended...

The Daily fixes you up after a hard days' night.

BY SARI LONG
The McGill Daily

We at Mind and Body hope that you had a happy and safe New Year's Eve. Understandably, many of us engaged in various forms of debauchery but all in good fun.

For those of you still on your holiday high and reveling in your lack of work at this point in the semester, this recipe is for you. Due to the vitamin deficiency incurred after a night of athletic partying, your body will be so happy that you took the time to care for it. The purchase of these vitamins is a good invest-

ment for your liver and overall health. One last tip: prepare this mixture ahead of time, unless you perceive your ability to handle a blender will not be impeded by an incredible headache and blurred vision.

For future reference, when you next plan on annihilating yourself, make sure that you eat a full meal before going out, drink plenty of water before, during and especially after your wacky alcohol splurge. And if you still wake up in pain, even after ensuring hydration, use the following recipe to nurse yourself back to health. And remember, kids: everything in moderation.

THE ULTIMATE HANGOVER
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1. Take 2 aspirins
2. Take 200mg cysteine (available at specialty food stores)
3. Take 600mg vitamin C
4. Take 1 tablet vitamin B-complex
5. Mix the following ingredients together in a blender:
 - 1 banana
 - 1 small can V-8
 - 6 large strawberries
 - 2 tablespoons honey
 - 1 cup orange juice
6. Drink it all up.



Are you one of those bastards who sit there and complain but do jack-you-know-what about it?? Get off your lazy, cynical arse and come into the Daily and write about it so we don't have to listen to your prattle anymore.
(New Chancellor Day Hall, 620).

Having a Coco Rico Day

feasts



BY FRANKLIN SACKVILLE
The Daily Gourmand

The stretch of the Main between Saint Cuthbert and Duluth is a virtual paradise of foodstuffs for the hungry. There are the delicious Caesars at Copacabana, the salted fish at Segal, the bottles of cheap and fizzy Kiri pop at Warshaw and organic goodness at Franco. But all of these divine attractions are instantly overpowered by the supple rotating chicken flesh and dripping juices on display in the steamy windows of Coco Rico.

A tale from a friend who lives close by illustrates the sheer succulence of the restaurant's grilled meats. They have been known to convert known vegans to the pleasures of eating animal flesh. This associate of mine (we'll call him Marcus) explains that he lives for days in which he can eat every meal at Coco Rico. Marcus's lifestyle has not been approved by any medical professional, and readers are advised to consult a doctor before beginning this meal plan.

BREAKFAST: Marcus is traditionally an early riser, and he isn't the type that skips the most important meal of the day. He puts on a trenchcoat over his bathrobe and trudges the 45 paces to the restaurant. There he purchases two of their exceedingly good Portuguese buns for the bargain basement price of 25 cents. He trudges home and proceeds to slather the buns in butter, jam and more butter. Marcus specifies that the buns are to be ordered specifically as petit pains, and must be immediately consumed. He explains that they exponentially decrease in quality as a factor of time, so you are cutting off your nose to spite your face if you shell for the bag of day-old bread. The bread is approximately 70 per cent air, and they shrivel as the day drags on.

LUNCH: Of course, man cannot live on bread and butter alone, so when lunch time rolls around, it's back to Coco Rico. Marcus explains that there is more to Coco Rico than just chicken. You don't go to the Bifteck for beef; you go for the stale bowls of popcorn filled with other people's used chewing gum. As such, Marcus recommends the pork chops for lunch. They prove that grilled meats need not stop at our fine feathered friends.

DINNER: The best day to devote to Coco Rico is clearly Monday. The \$5.99 whole chickens are the finest birds available on the Island of Montreal, megacity or no. Marcus boasts that he often invites his comely young neighbours downstairs, as a

How to make
the St. Laurent
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whole chicken is often too much for someone who has been gorging all day long. The macaroni salad is what KFC would serve if they truly did chicken right, and the carrot salad placates the vegan within. If you ask nicely, you can get a sack of potatoes. Marcus brags that this is a bona fide sack and is nothing to be sniffed at. The cornbread is very filling and heavy, a good point-counterpoint to the airy buns of the morning's meal.

So this is Marcus's ideal meal plan. The whole thing will set you back about 15 dollars on a Monday, slightly more on any other day of the week. It must be acknowledged that the day's meal is not very balanced and a bit pricey, but a true grilled meat enthusiast would have it no other way. For a single meal, though, Coco Rico is head, beak and feathers above any other chicken resto in the city.

Coco Rico is located at 3907 Blvd. St. Laurent and is open every day from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. Phone 849-5554. Franklin Sackville is The Daily's new voice on all things culinary. Email him at feasts@mcgilldaily.com

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What: Allez-Up indoor climbing gym

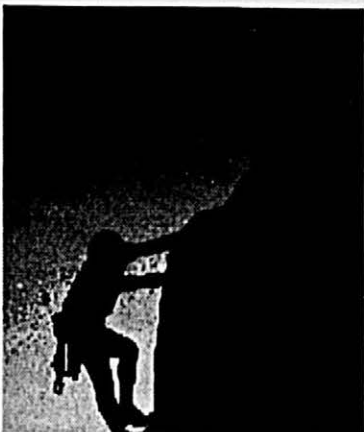
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This could be you after practicing at Allez-Up for a while. It's not quite the same as indoor climbing, but close.

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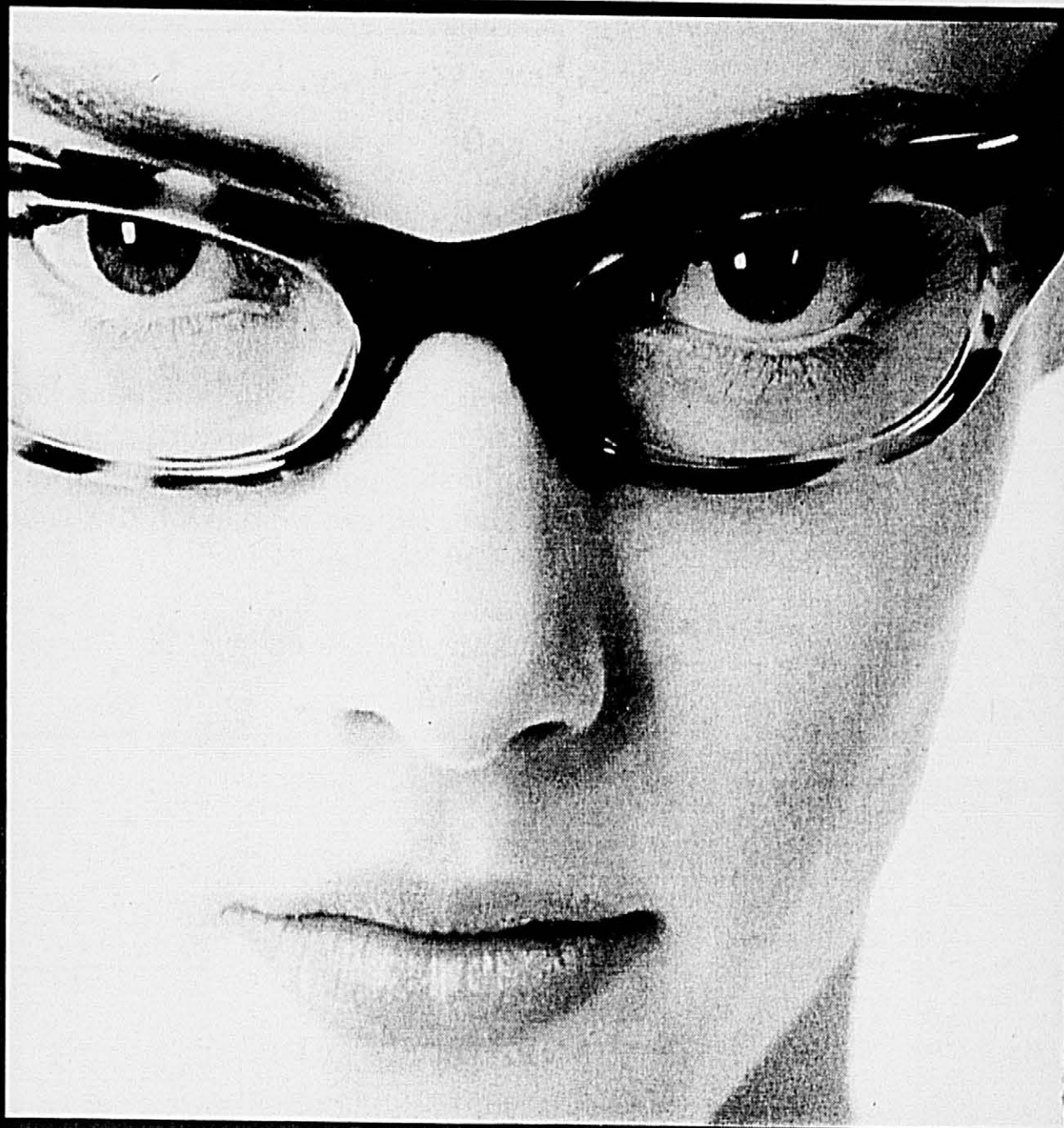
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